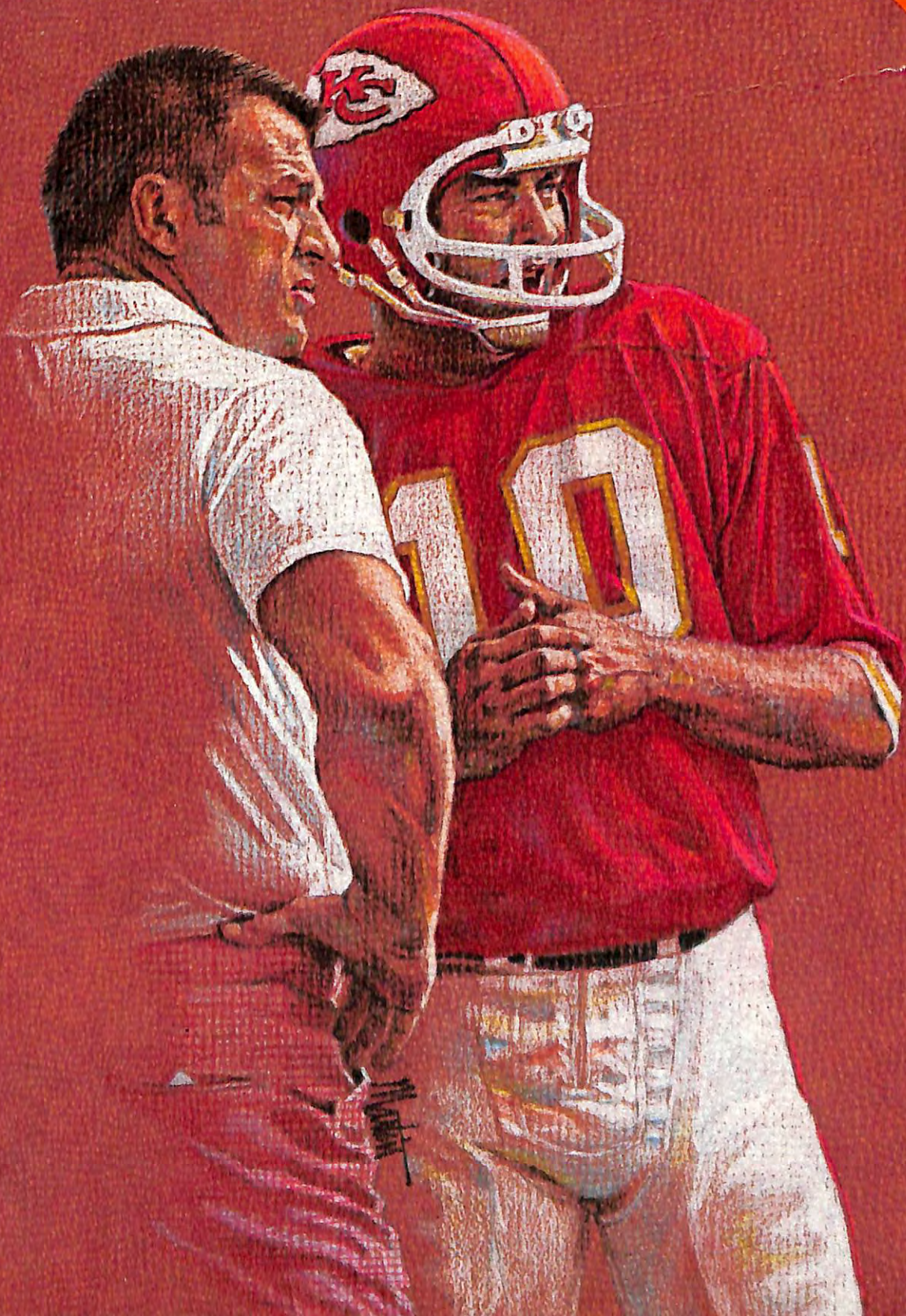


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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

CHIEFS EDITION
Pittsburgh vs. Kansas City
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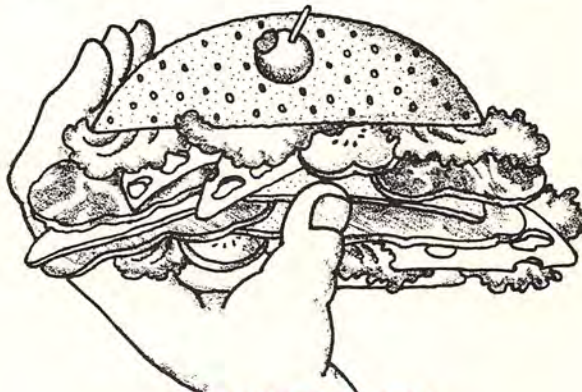
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Coming Next in PRO!

AFC PREVIEW: CAN ANYONE TOPPLE THE RAIDERS?



Raiders Under Siege



Scouting the Contenders

The Oakland Raiders made believers of everyone with their decisive victory over Minnesota in Super Bowl XI. But so far none of the 13 other AFC clubs has conceded the world champions a second straight title. The Steelers are hungry for a return visit to the Super Bowl. The Colts' offense is awesome. The Patriots are solid contenders. And the Bengals continue to improve. Dan Berger details the AFC outlook for 1977. There's also a look at Super Bowl rings and Bill McGrane's insights on training camp classrooms.

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**TOM HOPKINS
AND
BRUCE RICE**

Play-by-play & Commentary

And with the Chiefs on television turn down the sound and get more out of the game with Tom and Bruce, the hometown team..

THE NUMBERS GAME

By Doug Kelly

Coaches everywhere play it.

But nowhere is it more critical than in the National Football League.

It's called the numbers game and the local version is being conducted at the Chiefs training base in Liberty. The rules are relatively simple. You bring 80 or so people to camp and then get your roster down to 43 by the time the regular season opens.

In other words, you get rid of about as many people as you keep.

The Chiefs roster now numbers 60 players. To reach that limit, the team waived 10 players last Tuesday. The next mandatory cutdown, to 52, won't be until the end of August. But the going will still be rough for most of the survivors. Waivers from other clubs constantly provide a new pool of available talent, some of which the Chiefs will claim from time to time.

Conversations with Paul Wiggin and his coaching staff provide an outlook into the current squad. Here's a capsule summary of the 1977 Chiefs going into tonight's Arrowhead preseason opener.

Offense

Wiggin made only one personnel change in his staff, bringing in Jack Christiansen to tutor the offensive backs. Chet Franklin, who formerly coached the runners, has shifted his attention to the linebackers. All other stations remain the same, though there will be no offensive or defensive coordinators under Wiggin's realignment.

"I believe we're in good shape, running back-wise," says Christiansen, who came to Kansas City from Stanford University. The head coach there for nine years, Christiansen believes the Chiefs will keep either five or six backs, headed by veterans MacArthur Lane and Ed Podolak. "We haven't had Mac or Ed in much contact yet, and Ed's completely healthy this year, so that's a plus for us," he says. "I expect them to both play a little more this week than the one quarter we used them against Detroit."

Backing them up are two promising rookies, second round draft choice Tony Reed and fourth pick

Mark Bailey. "We like what we've seen of these two so far," says Christiansen. Reed carried eight times for 28 yards against the Lions and Bailey had the top rushing night for Kansas City with 55 yards on three carries. One of those was a 52-yard jaunt down the sideline on a short-yardage attempt.

Christiansen feels he needs to see more of Arnold Morgado, Glynn Harrison and Pat McNeil in game situations. "The only way to make a logical (personnel) decision is to see people in a game," he says. As for how many runners he eventually ends up with, Christiansen adds, "It's going to depend on the value of the extra man on special teams," a theme echoed by a majority of the club's coaches.

Bob Schnelker has responsibility for quarterbacks and the passing game. His starters at tight end and wide receiver are, barring injury, well defined: Walter White at tight end and Henry Marshall and Larry Brunson at the split receiver and flanker positions. The backup roles, though, are still to be determined.

"Walter White is Walter White," says Schnelker. "Good hands, great speed, although I think he's a better blocker now than he was a year ago." Two aspirants look to back up White. They are fourth round selection Tony Samuels and Ed Beckman, a free agent.

"Beckman impresses me," says Schnelker. "He's very aware of what he's doing on the field. Good hands. Fair blocker, but he should improve. I'd say he is a strong possibility. Samuels is a very good physical specimen. The fact he went to a small school program means he has some work to do in terms of fundamentals, but I think he'll come around." Speed and good hands are Samuels's prime attributes.

Five wide receivers currently are vying for three, possibly four, spots. Schnelker notes the improvement of Henry Marshall as primary when discussing the receiver slot. "Henry's more relaxed now. He started to learn to do that the latter part of last year, but now he's even better than before. He's more comfortable and certain of himself. He's the ideal sort of player at that position for our offensive tendencies."

Brunson, who made the Chiefs in 1974 on his third try in the NFL, continues to improve steadily. "His ability to get open, coupled with Marshall on the other side, makes him extremely valuable."

Lawrence Williams, a kick returner who caught but one pass a year ago, has also made a favorable impression. "Williams is both faster and quicker than ever before and I believe he's more determined to make this ballclub than in the past," says Schnelker. "His kick return abilities give him an even better opportunity to help us." Two rookies, draftee Waddell Smith and free agent Travis McCord, hope to crack the group. "Smith is primarily a track guy and as such he's still learning some of the fine points of the game. McCord hasn't had much of a chance as yet. He's a Barry Pearson-type of player in that he has good moves and hands. We intend to give him a chance to show what he can do."

The quarterback picture has gotten better and better each of Wiggin's three camps. Mike Livingston, who did not play last week, will see his first preseason action tonight. Tony Adams is his backup and the third spot is being contested between second-year Mike Nott and Mark Vitali, an 11th round draft choice.

Livingston is the unquestioned number one for the first time in his career. Coming off a banner 1976 season, he feels this year will be every bit as productive. "Even better I hope. We have a lot of good people around who weren't here before. I can't help but be enthusiastic when I look around and see how Henry's gotten better and then some of the rookies we got."

Adams, who played a half against the Lions, is eminently capable and might well be starting for other NFL teams. Nott got into only one game a year ago, that a cameo role against Pittsburgh, while Vitali is a rookie from Purdue.

Protecting the quarterbacks and opening the holes for the runners will be an offensive line that coach Joe Spencer feels is greatly improved over a year ago. "And I felt we did pretty well in '76," Spencer says, adding that his troops

will be reinforced with several new faces.

At center, Pro Bowler Jack Rudnay will be backed up by Charlie Ane, the snapper on punts and placekicks. The tackles are Matt Herkenhoff and Jim Nicholson, along with Bob Simmons, a free agent who was a New Orleans draftee a year ago. Charlie Getty and Tom Condon hold down the guard slots, but a promising aspirant is fourth round draft choice Darius Helton, whose progress in camp has been slowed by partial shoulder separation. Rod Walters, the club's first draft choice a year ago, backs up Herkenhoff and lends the team quality depth within the offensive line. Another two-dimensional performer is Orrin Olsen, who has been used at both center and guard.

"We've been coming along pretty well," says Spencer. "But we've got some ways to go before the regular season starts, too."

Defense

While the Chiefs offense rolled in '76, the defense sagged to a No. 27 finish in the NFL. That was better than only one other team in the league, so Wiggins, Tom Bettis, Tom Pratt and now Chet Franklin have devoted numerous waking hours to an improvement in the unit. Much of the personnel is the same from a year ago. While that fact has raised some speculation the group will not improve, the coaches feel otherwise.

Pratt's job is to regroup the defensive line, thus relieving rush pressure on the linebackers and the secondary. "I think we're getting there," Pratt says. "When you look at our situation compared to a year ago, you didn't see a Whitney Paul at end. Now he's one of our best players and he's definitely an NFL calibre end. He's quick to make things happen."

"Then you take a guy like Willie Lee. Paul said he couldn't think of a guy who's been working any harder than Willie and I agree. He's continuing to learn the fundamentals of the tackle position. Willie's extremely strong but he must learn to stay down when the ball is snapped. He has the tendency to rise up and it's just something we have to keep working on."

"Cornelius Walker has extremely good quickness. He'll be helped by some of our new alignments. He has pass rushing abilities and can run plays down, and those are the kinds of things you're looking for."

Pratt believes Keith Simons, a third round draftee in '76, is picking up where he left off after a knee injury last year. "Keith is our most fundamental player in the defensive line. He plays it by the book. Keith's the kind of guy who probably won't be the first to get to the passer, but he cleans up the pass rush so well that if the quarterback steps up, he's going to run into Keith."

Wilbur Young is the senior member of the line, heading into his seventh Chiefs season. "We've got to have a good year from Wilbur and he knows it, too. But he's with us and with what the coaching staff is trying to accomplish. And I can say this about Will. He wants to have as good or better a year than all of us want him to."

Pratt estimates he'll have six linemen when the roster is pared to 43. Bob Maddox, John Lohmeyer and

Bud Magrum all are candidates for work. Magrum, an emigrant from the CFL, has been injured of late and has not had a real chance to be evaluated. Maddox and Lohmeyer, as well as Lawrence Estes, have flexibility as an asset. All three have played either tackle or end in their tenure with the Chiefs.

At linebacker, a familiar trio will greet opposing ballcarriers. Willie Lanier, Jim Lynch and Billy Andrews all eschewed retirement for at least one more year. This news was greeted enthusiastically by Chet Franklin, who feels the younger players the Chiefs drafted have an immediate opportunity to learn from the threesome. "When you've got quality people, it rubs off," says Franklin, who's no stranger to defense, having coached the 49ers secondary in 1974.

Behind Lanier is second-year Jimbo Elrod. Another second-year man, Dave Rozumek, is behind Andrews while veteran Clyde Werner backs up Lynch. Two drafted rook-

(Continued on page 88)



Photograph by Hank Young

BRAIN TRUST—Offensive assistant Bob Schnelker, special teams coach Steve Ortmyer and Paul Wiggins evaluate the on-field action last Saturday in Detroit.



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Cliff Duffield
Gate City



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Kansas City



Richard A. Fancher
Overland



Joe Farris
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Stephen J. Franzen
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Michael D. Goostree
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Clifford L. Herring
Gate City



Clyde W. Huffman
Kansas City



Carl S. Jackson, CLU
Kansas City



Ralph W. Moll
Kansas City



Roger J. Olson
Kansas City



Violet C. Poole
Kansas City



A. Everett Riley
Gate City



David E. Riley, CLU
Gate City



Abe Rogell
Gate City



William A. Rollins
Kansas City



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ever. It had zap. One of a kind. The 240-Z was the first Z. A two-seater, four-speeder GT that quickly became America's most-wanted sports car. And you know, it still is. A good used one is worth more today than it originally cost.

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2400cc's to 2600cc's. It had zap. And so does its resale value. Then came the 280-Z, with an electronically fuel injected 2800cc overhead cam engine.

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What's a nice girl like you doing right in the seam of our hook zone?

"Cora" and "Sally." "Wanda," "Meg," and "Sue."

A word of caution:

These people have one thing in common in addition to cute names.

They're apt to knock you silly.

They aren't girls and they aren't nice.

All those good-sounding handles are just another way of nicknaming defensive backs and linebackers.

In fact, while it might not sound biologically possible, Sue, Meg, and Wanda aren't a bit different than Sam, Mo, and Will, who, by the way, have nothing to do with the Three Stooges.

Want to know what goes on, down on that field? Want to know what it is they're saying, when you can see them, all the time shouting to one another and raising fingers and pointing and waving?

Communicating, that's what!

Defenses are set in the huddle and then redesigned at the line of scrimmage, depending on the offensive set. Variations within a given defense are being called by a linebacker and a corner, a corner and a safety, a linebacker and a defensive lineman. All of them relay their last second changes in tactics to their teammates through a code of audible signals.

The same thing happens on offense, probably more so. The play the quarterback calls in the huddle might get changed a couple of times before the ball is snapped. The blocking the quarterback sets in the huddle might abort when the defense changes its look; the center would then change up the blocking assignments at the line.

Clarifying those examples given, and admitting that there are many more names not mentioned here:

Cora means cornerback.

Sally means safety man.

Cora and Sally usually work in combinations, there being two of each, left and right.

Sam and Sue are strongside linebackers.

Meg, Mo, and a late-entry, Mike, are middle linebackers.

Wanda and Will are weakside linebackers.

Strong and weak are determined for the defense by the offense. If the tight end (tersely called Y) lines up on the right side of the offensive line, then the formation is strong to the right with



Don Weiler

three men on the right side of the center. Now, if Y hunkers down on the offensive left, then we are strong left.

As if it isn't bad enough that the better part of twenty-two guys are all hollering signals at the same time, you also have the fake-holler. Quarterbacks are not above barking out a string of gibberish ticketed for the sole purpose of confusing the defense. And defenses aren't above doing the same thing.

The finished product, from the time everybody gets down in a stance until the ball is snapped, sounds not unlike an argument in a Chinese laundry.

A practicing quarterback in this business once set up to throw behind outstanding protection, pumped, and fired. Great-looking pass! It went squarely into the hands of a shocked linebacker and nowhere near the intended receiver.

Huffing to the bench, the quarterback snarled, "Where 'n hell'd he come from?"

The quarterback's head coach observed dryly, "Not from the blackboard."

It may be noted that this same coach, a quarterback and punter in his playing days, was himself once uniquely touched by the fates in Franklin Field.

Punt formation . . . bad, short snap from center . . . big rush . . . hurry-up kick.

All of which resulted in his punting the ball approximately two feet before it struck squarely against the buttocks of his own center.

'Way back, before the Minnesota Vikings started taking this game so

seriously, they held a fragile three-point lead over the Detroit Lions with virtually no time remaining. The Lions had the ball, somewhere back in their own end.

Last-gasp play for the Lions and their perky young quarterback, Earl Morrall.

Morrall called his last-ditch play in the huddle. One of his running backs was a stalwart named Amos Marsh.

Play called . . . hands clapped in fierce unison . . . the Lions wheeled grimly out of their huddle and tensed at the line.

Ten of the Lions, Morrall among them, had one play in mind.

Amos hadn't heard right, or had forgotten, or what have you. Amos had another play in mind.

At the snap of the ball, 10 Lions exploded in unified fury.

At the snap of the ball, Amos realized he'd forgotten the play he thought he heard in the huddle but really hadn't.

Which explains why Amos now made a mistake in running the pass-route that was a mistake in the first place.

Two wrongs don't make a right?

Hah! You should have seen the Vikings' secondary in those hazardous early years!

Amos Marsh thundered right on through the shallow zone and began a grand and unescorted gallop down the center of the field.

Morrall threw him a pass for a touch-down and the Lions won the game.

Seems to me, he went by Wanda, avoided Cora, and ran right over top of Sally.!

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TONIGHT'S GAME

"We are not satisfied, obviously."

That, in capsule form, summed up Paul Wiggin's feeling in the aftermath of Kansas City's 17-0 loss to Detroit in the preseason opener.

But the Chiefs head coach noted upon looking at the films of the Lions contest that he did observe some positive aspects of his team's play.

"We had a lot of opportunities and we just didn't take advantage of any of them," said Wiggin. "Right now we are trying to develop a winning football team for 1977. I think in many ways we are on target right now. I know a 17-0 score doesn't look like it but I believe we are."

The remaining preseason schedule gets no easier for the Chiefs as they entertain the Pittsburgh Steelers this evening. "But that's good for us because it will be a good test," says Wiggin. "Pittsburgh and Washington (the Chiefs opponent next Thursday in the nation's capital) are two of the better teams in the NFL and we want to be there, too. I think this team will pick up the pieces and get rolling."

Mike Livingston, who did not see action against the Lions, is expected to get the starting call at quarterback for Kansas City. "Mike fits into our offensive system very well," says his head coach. "He did everything we asked of him a year ago and then some."

Newcomers provided much of the Chiefs offensive impetus in the

opener. Fullback Mark Bailey ran 52 yards up the left sideline, a run longer than any last year save one by a Chiefs rusher. Tony Reed, the club's second draft choice from Colorado, ran eight times and picked up 28 yards.

The Steelers opened summertime activity with a come-from-behind 28-24 win over the Buffalo Bills. Terry Bradshaw threw three touchdown passes in bringing the Steelers from behind on three different occasions. Former Kansas star Laverne Smith, a fourth round Steelers draft choice, returned kickoffs 54 and 52 yards to set up scoring rallies.

The Records: Pittsburgh is 1-0. Kansas City is 0-1.

The Series: The Chiefs and Steelers have never met in preseason play. The clubs have faced each other six times in regular season competition with the Steelers winning four times, the Chiefs two.

The Last Time: A game that catalyzed Pittsburgh's run to the 1976 playoffs, the Steelers handed Kansas City its first regular season shutout since 1963. The score was 45-0.

Next Week: It's a short week for the Chiefs. After tonight they meet the Washington Redskins next Thursday evening in Washington's Robert F. Kennedy Stadium. Kick-off is 7:00 p.m. Kansas City time. The Steelers meet the New York Jets at Giants Stadium one week from tonight.



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Dallas_____at Seattle_____

Chicago_____at Oakland_____

Philadelphia_____at

Los Angeles_____

New York Giants_____at

New Orleans_____

San Francisco_____at

San Diego_____

Washington_____at Miami_____

Pittsburgh_____at Kansas City_____

Detroit_____at Buffalo_____

New England_____vs.

Green Bay_____at Milwaukee

Cleveland_____at Minnesota_____

St. Louis_____at Denver_____

New York Jets_____at Atlanta_____

Tampa Bay_____at Cincinnati_____

Baltimore_____at Houston_____

CHIEFS STATISTICS

WON 5 LOST 9

RESULTS AND ATTENDANCE

Kansas City Chiefs 16, San Diego 30	53,133
Kansas City Chiefs 21, Oakland 24	60,884
Kansas City Chiefs 17, New Orleans 27	53,918
Kansas City Chiefs 17, at Buffalo 50	51,909
Kansas City Chiefs 33, at Washington 30	53,060
Kansas City Chiefs 20, at Miami 17 (OT)	43,325
Kansas City Chiefs 26, Denver 35	57,961
Kansas City Chiefs 28, at Tampa Bay 19	41,779
Kansas City Chiefs 0, Pittsburgh 45	71,516
Kansas City Chiefs 10, at Oakland 21	48,859
Kansas City Chiefs 24, Cincinnati 27	46,259
Kansas City Chiefs 23, at San Diego 20	29,272
Kansas City Chiefs 16, at Denver 17	58,170
Kansas City Chiefs 39, Cleveland 14	34,340

NEXT OPPONENT

August 18 at Washington Redskins

TEAM STATISTICS

	Chiefs	Opponents
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	275	309
Rushing	104	161
Passing	151	133
Penalty	20	15
Third Down Efficiency	79/210	78/184
TOTAL NET YARDS	4804	5359
Avg. Per Game	343.1	382.8
Total Plays	959	899
Avg. Per Play	5.01	5.96
NET YARDS RUSHING	1873	2861
Avg. Per Game	133.8	204.4
Total Rushes	498	555
Avg. Per Rush	3.76	5.15
NET YARDS PASSING	2929	2496
Avg. Per Game	209.2	178.3
Tackled/Yards Lost	42/374	22/188
Gross Yards	3303	2684
Attempts/Completions	419/229	375/215
Pct. of Completions	.546	.573
Had Intercepted	17	23
PUNTS/AVERAGE	67/41.7	63/39.7
NET PUNTING AVERAGE	33.7	30.3
PUNT RETURN/AVERAGE	34/12.6	39/9.6
KICKOFF RETURNS/AVERAGE	64/24.0	55/23.0
MISC. RETURN/AVERAGE	4/6.8	8/12.9
INTERCEPTIONS/AVG. RETURN	23/7.0	17/14.6
PENALTIES/YARDS	97/789	88/762
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	31/16	35/20
TOUCHDOWNS	33	51
Rushing	18	24
Passing	15	25
Returns	0	2
EXTRA POINTS/ATTEMPTS	27/33	43/51
FIELD GOALS/ATTEMPTS	21/38	9/18
TOTAL POINTS	290	376
SCORE BY PERIODS	1 2 3 4 OT Total	
CHIEFS	49 95 71 72 3 290	
Opponents	95 71 83 127 0 376	

	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
M. Lane	162	542	3.3	20	5
E. Podolak	88	371	4.2	22	5
W. Green	73	322	4.4	27	1
T. Reamon	103	314	3.1	14	4
H. Marshall	5	101	20.2	59	1
M. Livingston	31	89	2.9	19	2
T. Adams	5	46	9.2	21	0
G. Harrison	16	41	2.6	7	0
P. McNeil	8	26	3.3	7	0
W. White	2	15	7.5	8	0
J. Kinney	1	7	7.0	7	0
L. Brunson	3	-1	-0.3	5	0
J. Stenerud	1	0	0.0	0	0
CHIEFS TOTAL	498	1873	3.76	59	18
Opponents Total	555	2861	5.15	77	24

	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TD	Int.	LG
M. Livingston	338	189	2682	.559	12	13	57
T. Adams	71	36	575	.507	3	4	49
M. Nott	10	4	46	.400	0	0	23
CHIEFS TOTAL	419	229	3303	.546	15	17	57
Opponents Total	375	215	2684	.573	25	23	57

FIELD GOALS

	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50
J. Stenerud	0-0	7-11	6-9	7-15	1-3
Opponents Total	0-0	5-5	4-9	0-2	0-2

RECEIVING

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
M. Lane	66	686	10.4	44	1
W. White	47	808	17.2	41	7
L. Brunson	33	656	19.9	57	1
H. Marshall	28	443	15.8	31	2
B. Masters	18	269	14.9	30	3
E. Podolak	13	156	12.0	23	0
T. Reamon	10	136	13.6	49	1
W. Green	9	100	11.1	31	0
P. McNeil	2	33	16.5	18	0
G. Harrison	1	12	12.0	12	0
L. Williams	1	9	9.0	9	0
C. Getty	1	-5	-5.0	0	0
CHIEFS TOTAL	229	3303	14.4	57	15
Opponents Total	215	2684	12.5	57	25

INTERCEPTIONS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
K. Reardon	5	26	5.2	22	0
T. Gray	4	19	4.8	11	0
W. Lanier	3	28	9.3	14	0
G. Barbaro	3	27	9.0	16	0
E. Thomas	2	30	15.0	29	0
T. Collier	2	10	5.0	10	0
J. Lynch	2	7	3.5	7	0
B. Andrews	1	11	11.0	11	0
J. Elrod	1	3	3.0	3	0
CHIEFS TOTAL	23	161	7.0	29	0
Opponents Total	17	248	14.6	101	1

PUNTING

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	In 20	LG
J. Wilson	65	2729	42.0	8	15	62
M. Nott	1	35	35.0	0	0	35
J. Stenerud	1	28	28.0	0	1	28
CHIEFS TOTAL	67	2792	41.7	8	16	62
Opponents Total	63	2501	39.7	8	12	57

PUNT RETURNS

	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
L. Brunson	31	0	387	12.5	48	0
B. Andrews	1	0	38	38.0	38	0
K. Reardon	1	1	4	4.0	4	0
T. Reamon	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
CHIEFS TOTAL	34	1	429	12.6	48	0
Opponents Total	39	4	375	9.6	55	1

KICKOFF RETURNS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
L. Williams	25	688	27.6	64	0
W. Green	3	82	27.3	30	0
R. Craig	2	45	22.5	23	0
T. Reamon	19	424	22.3	35	0
G. Harrison	13	278	21.4	35	0
P. McNeil	2	21	10.5	19	0
CHIEFS TOTAL	64	1538	24.0	64	0
Opponents Total	55	1263	23.0	64	0

SCORING

	TDR	TDP	TDRt	FG	PAT	TP
J. Stenerud	0	0	0	21-38	27-33	90
W. White	0	7	0	0-0	0-0	42
M. Lane	5	1	0	0-0	0-0	36
E. Podolak	5	0	0	0-0	0-0	30
T. Reamon	4	1	0	0-0	0-0	30
H. Marshall	1	2	0	0-0	0-0	18
B. Masters	0	3	0	0-0	0-0	18
M. Livingston	2	0	0	0-0	0-0	12
W. Green	1	0	0	0-0	0-0	6
L. Brunson	0	1	0	0-0	0-0	6
Safety	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	2
CHIEFS TOTAL	18	15	0	21-38	27-33	290
Opponents Total	24	25	2	9-18	43-51	376

Stenerud Field Goals: (28,45w) (41w) (51w,27) (33) (37,52,38,23b,45,47b) (29,34) (52w,48,40,38w) (42,32,32w,27b) (27b) (43w,41) (45w,24b,24,39w,46w) (40,28,26) (31,43w) (49s,27,42)
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LAMAR HUNT



Following the contract settlement between the owners and NFL players and the revolutionary owners meeting that produced competitive scheduling and a longer regular season schedule, Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt sat down and talked with newsmen about the status of the sport. Always candid and to the

point, Hunt wasted little time in summarizing his feelings.

"There has never been a more positive general attitude about pro football than at present. I came away very optimistic about the game in general and the Chiefs in particular. I think the events of the last few years inflicted things on the general public that they were not interested in . . . things like strikes, labor disputes, etc. . . . Sports fans want to hear about who we are going to play and what kind of team we are going to have. They want to hear about football and we are going back to that in 1977."

Thus, a new era begins to dawn for the NFL, with all its changes of late, and for the Kansas City Chiefs, who begin their third year of reorganization behind the team's personable head coach Paul Wiggin. Hunt is excited about the Chiefs

future under Wiggin and provided the head coach with a brand new three-year contract following the 1976 season.

Hunt begins his 18th season as the head man of the Chiefs. He also continues as president of the American Football Conference of the NFL and continues to be a leader and innovator among the 28 clubs of the league.

At the age of 26 in 1959, this quiet Texan formed the American Football League and served as its first president. His franchise, the Dallas Texans, moved to Kansas City prior to the 1963 season.

In 1972 Hunt became the first AFL figure to be enshrined in pro football's Hall of Fame. Long active in community and civic affairs both in Dallas and Kansas City, Hunt continues his involvement outside of his business activities.

JACK STEADMAN



Last August, when the Chiefs began the second season of their new approach and reorganization, owner Lamar Hunt promoted Jack Steadman to president of the Kansas City Chiefs Football Club. In making the announcement, Hunt said Steadman would continue to be in charge of all operations for the Chiefs and Worlds of Fun and would now concentrate his efforts on the future growth and expansion plans of both Kansas City-based organizations.

Considered one of the top administrators in professional athletics, Steadman has acquired a long list of illustrious credentials and achievements in his 17-year association with the Chiefs and pro football. The Chiefs, over the past 17 seasons, have been among pro football's most successful franchises and much of that success is attributable to Steadman.

"In my opinion," contends Steadman, "the success of any business is directly related to the quality and dedication of the people who make up the organization. I am proud of the fact that Lamar has provided us with everything necessary to build the finest organization in all of pro sports. With Jim Schaaf as our general manager, Paul Wiggin as our head coach and the support and dedication of all of our staff and player personnel, we, in my opinion, have the people to get the job done."

Steadman has been the head of

the Chiefs administrative staff since November of 1960 when Hunt named him general manager of the Dallas Texans of the American Football League. He was promoted to executive vice president and general manager of the Chiefs in 1966 and to president last August.

As the Chiefs head into their sixth season in Arrowhead, much of the stadium, acclaimed nationally as one of the finest sports facilities in the world, reflects the personality of Jack Steadman. It was Steadman who conceived the idea of Kansas City building a two-stadium complex that resulted in a 78,000-seat football facility (Arrowhead) and a 42,000-seat baseball stadium (Royals Stadium)

Despite a demanding work schedule, Steadman remains active in numerous civic affairs. He just completed two special assignments for the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, heading up the Worlds Fair committee and the task force committee on tourism.

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Paul Wiggin

CHIEFS HEAD COACH

Year III of the Paul Wiggin era commences with his belief that the Chiefs at last have the quality personnel it takes to begin returning Kansas City to prominence in the National Football League.

With the fruits of two good drafts upon which to continue the rebuilding effort, Wiggin approaches 1977 with an unbounded enthusiasm that is, even for him, remarkable.

"To be honest, I wasn't as excited a year ago as I am right now heading into this season," said Wiggin. "You know, going into last year, I wasn't scared but there were a lot of question marks with nearly every aspect of the team. We answered some of the questions—positively—in 1976. I am equally hopeful we can answer the rest this time around."

Wiggin's first two Chiefs squads compiled identical 5-9 records. Other than the similarity of records, however, the head coach was far more pleased overall with his second squad compared to his first. "We learned a lot last year. We made progress in number of key areas. We learned we had an offense that could move the football. We also learned we need to improve drastically on defense."

Such candor is not surprising from the 42-year-old Wiggin, who inherited a club in great need of repair when he was named head coach of the Chiefs on January 23, 1975. It is a trait Kansas Citians have come to expect from him ever since he became only the second head coach in the 17-year history of the franchise. The honesty of feeling as players and fans alike have discovered over the past two years, manifests itself in good times and bad. "I have a strong belief the main thing you derive from this game is the respect of the people around you," Wiggin has said on many occasions.

He and his team earned the respect of the National Football League a year ago when the Chiefs offense finished third in the AFC behind a pair of playoff teams, Baltimore and Oakland. Kansas City's passing game, with Mike Livingston at the throttle, ranked second, a mere four yards off the top rung in all of the NFL.

Wiggin graduated to the Chiefs from the staff of the San Francisco 49ers. After Dick Nolan was named 49ers coach in 1968, he added Wiggin to his staff as defensive line coach, then in 1974 increased his responsibilities to those of defensive coordinator.

Wiggin played 11 seasons as a defensive end with the Cleveland Browns, retiring after the 1967 season. During that time, he achieved Pro Bowl recognition twice (1966 and 1968) and played in three NFL title games with the Browns, including Cleveland's 1964 world championship. Drafted as a future by the Browns in 1956, he began his playing career the following season. He entered coaching with the 49ers immediately upon his retirement as a player.

Wiggin's first two years in Kansas City have produced several of the high points in the franchise's history. His first regular season victory as a head coach came in a 42-10 rout of the Oakland Raiders. There was the Monday night upset in Dallas, when the Chiefs rallied for a three-point win over the eventual NFC champions. Then last year, after four losses in succession, came the miracle "flea-flicker" comeback in Washington that produced a victory over the Redskins. A week later, Kansas City battled Miami even-up in the Orange Bowl—and was rewarded with an overtime triumph.

But most all of Wiggin's 28 games as a head coach have been marked by one distinguishing characteristic: excitement. The 1975-76 Chiefs turned corners of sorts. Football at Arrowhead was fun again, a quality missing the previous few seasons prior to Wiggin's arrival. A feeling of optimism, generated largely by Wiggin and his staff, returned to and within the squad.

"We'll be worth watching in 1977," Wiggin says simply of his club, one that has received a badly-needed transfusion from the last two drafts. In the two years he has directed the Chiefs fortunes, Wiggin has become a firm believer in building a squad through the draft. "You start off believing that because it makes sense," he says. "Then you look at the teams that have a lot of draft choices and you discover they're the ones who are the best in football. We want to be one of those teams. I believe in our philosophy of building through the draft. I think it's working for us and will work in the future."

Wiggin's opportunity brought with it a responsibility. The responsibility of relating, motivating and winning. "I guarantee we will do a better job in each of these areas than ever before," says the Chiefs head coach. Upon the foundations already established, and those still to be attained, the Kansas City Chiefs, whose excitement indeed is growing, will advance to the NFL's upper echelons.

Wiggin was born November 18, 1934, at Modesto, California. He attended nearby Manteca High School in Manteca, where he earned letters in four sports. He is married to the former Carolyn Clark, and they are the parents of three daughters, Kymerly, 16; Kristyn, 14; and Kellie, 10. The Wiggins live in suburban Johnson County.



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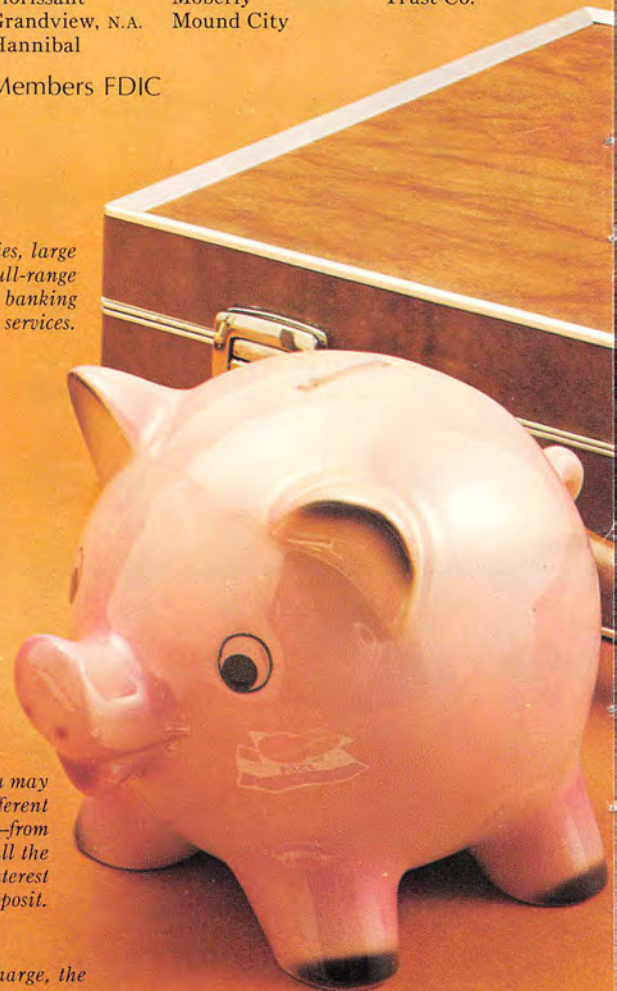


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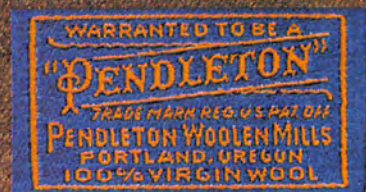




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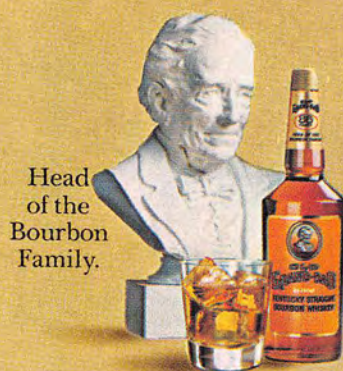
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NFC '77

Another tight squeeze: Minnesota, Los Angeles, Dallas, Washington, St. Louis top balanced field.

By Dan Berger



The five powerhouse teams in the National Football Conference last year—Dallas, Washington, and St. Louis in the Eastern Division, Minnesota in the Central, and Los Angeles in the West—all won at least 10 games. Yet each must have felt like the maiden tied to the log heading for the whirling buzzsaw until someone heroic came to the rescue. Not one of those five teams had an easy season.

Dallas's 11-3 record included hairbreadth victories over Baltimore (30-27), the New York Giants (9-3), and St. Louis (19-14).

Washington had four tight squeezes—19-17 over the Giants, 20-17 over Philadelphia, 24-21 over San Francisco, and 16-10 over St. Louis.

The Cardinals, who have a recent tradition of being involved in games that stimulate heart attacks, won 7 of their 10 games by margins of six points or less.

Minnesota, the defending NFL champion, got only 74 yards rushing in five quarters and tied Los Angeles 10-10, beat Detroit and Chicago by just one point each, trailed Seattle in the fourth period before pulling that one out, yet finished with the second best record in pro football, 11-2-1.

Los Angeles was beaten soundly twice on national television—losing 16-0 to San Francisco and 20-12 to Cincinnati in Monday night games. And the Rams beat Miami and Detroit by just three points and New Orleans by six.

There is no question that Minnesota, Los Angeles, Dallas, Washington, and St. Louis will be contenders again in 1977.

There also is no question that it won't get any easier for any of them, either. Close may count on the scoreboard only in horseshoes but there's no doubt that improved NFC teams will make for close scoreboard numbers in pro football this fall.

A lot of people—including the Cowboys, it seems—thought Dallas's only weakness a year ago was the lack of a breakaway running back. That situation was corrected on the day of the college draft, when the Cowboys obtained the number two position in the first round of the draft from Seattle and used it to take running back Tony Dorsett of Pittsburgh.

George Allen directed the Redskins into the playoffs for the fifth time in six years in Washington. And age be damned, the Redskins may have enough youth to make it back to the playoffs again.

St. Louis's explosive offense got some insurance when the Cardinals acquired Steve Pisarkiewicz in the player draft to back up quarterback Jim Hart. But coach Don Coryell also picked seven defensive players. A stabilized—and healthy—defense would make the Cardinals hard to beat.

Philadelphia pins its hopes on the strong arm and quick feet of new quarterback Ron Jaworski, who was obtained from the Rams in exchange for the rights to tight end Charles Young. Coach Dick Vermeil is convinced he made the right decision by keeping virtually everybody in 1976.

The Giants are awed by what their number one draft choice, USC defensive end Gary Jeter, did in a rookie workout before training camp opened, and they feel their defense should be the beneficiary.

It wasn't prestidigitation that got the Vikings home first in the Central Division. It was, among other things, Fran Tarkenton's record-setting arm, and a still solid defense.

Many coaches feel that experience overcomes the negatives of age, and Minnesota didn't show it was even slowing down last year, so the Vikings remain favorites.

Chicago advanced from 4-10 in 1975 to 7-7 in 1976, and then the Bears went out and got Sid Gillman as offensive coordinator and Mike Phipps to play quarterback. They already have one of the finest running backs in the game in Walter Payton.

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Detroit is a darkhorse. The Lions lost eight games in 1976, but two of the losses were by one point, one by three points, and two by seven points. Quarterback Greg Landry made a stirring comeback at age 30, passing for 2,191 yards, his highest total since 1972.

In Green Bay, the Pack is still attempting to come back under coach Bart Starr. If quarterback Lynn Dickey can stay healthy (he missed nearly half the 1976 season), the Packers will be improved.

Tampa Bay has a good pass defense and a potentially explosive offense with Ricky Bell and Anthony Davis as running backs.

Each of the four teams in the Western Division has a question mark at quarterback.

Los Angeles, 44-11-1 under Chuck Knox's leadership the last four years, may have the most talent and the most headaches at quarterback of any of the five teams. Last year, injuries shelved James Harris, Pat Haden, and Ron Jaworski for parts of the season, and when the juggling was over, Haden had the job, Jaworski and Harris were traded, and Joe Namath was acquired.

Some people think the Rams would win no matter who plays quarterback. They have solid running backs—Lawrence McCutcheon, John Cappelletti, Jim Bertelsen, and Cullen Bryant. They have two fleet wide receivers, Ron Jessie and Harold Jackson, and have the negotiation rights to tight end Charles Young, who might be the best in the league. They also have a powerhouse defense.

On the other hand, San Francisco's defense doesn't take a back seat to anyone.

Jim Plunkett, the 49ers' quarterback, labored through the 1976 season with a shoulder injury that created flexibility problems. A winter of rest has healed the shoulder. San Francisco's running tandem of Delvin Williams and Wilbur Jackson is perhaps unexcelled in the NFC.

Both Archie Manning of New Orleans and Steve Bartkowski of Atlanta suffered disability injuries last year. Manning, who had two tendon operations on his throwing arm, missed all of 1976, but coach Hank Stram feels Manning can come back.

Bartkowski missed three-quarters of the season with knee problems, but new Atlanta coach Leeman Bennett says, "There is no reason why he can't be as good as anybody in the league."

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Atlanta Falcons
NFC Western Division 4-10
Coach: Leeman Bennett

Bennett Will Try to Solve the Falcons' Puzzle



Bubba Bean, one of many Falcons' runners.

Overview: Winston Churchill once described the Soviet Union as "a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma." That's not a bad way to describe the Atlanta Falcons of 1976. On one hand, they beat Dallas, Chicago, and San Francisco. On the other, they were the only non-expansion team to lose to Seattle. And they also suffered a 59-0 embarrassment in Los Angeles. New head coach Leeman Bennett, who helped the Rams fashion that defeat, will seek to bring consistency to the Falcons this year.

Offense: Bennett's biggest asset is the running back corps. It has three second-year people who performed well as rookies—Sonny Collins, Bubba Bean, and Mike Esposito. Bean was the Falcons' leading ball carrier last year with 428 yards and a 3.5-yard average, but he's listed as the backup to Collins, the former Kentucky workhorse who averaged more than 30 carries a game as a collegian. Esposito starts at the other running back position after averaging 5.3 yards last year. Haskell Stanback divided

time with Esposito last season and will again this year. In addition, the Falcons chose a player of great potential on the eleventh round of the 1977 draft in USC's Dave Farmer, an injury-prone fullback who blocked well for Ricky Bell and never lost a yard as a Trojan. Steve Bartkowski's injury last year fortunately was to his knee, not his passing arm, and he should be back healthy. However, his offensive line is uncertain. Jeff Van Note was a Pro Bowl center before he suffered a knee injury requiring surgery. Paul Ryczek started the final four games of the season. At guard, Gregg Kindle started 11 games and Larron Jackson started all 14, with Royce Smith subbing for Kindle and Walter Brett also showing potential. "Our guard positions are very much undecided," said Bennett before training camp opened. The Atlanta defense permitted 184 yards per game on the ground last season. In 1976, Atlanta's tackles were Brent Adams and Len Gotshalk, but the Falcons drafted Warren Bryant of Kentucky on the first round of the 1977 draft. The 6-foot 6-inch, 250-pounder is expected to challenge for a starting spot, as will tackle K.C. Thielmann, a third-round selection from Arkansas. At wide receiver, John Gilliam had a sub-par year in 1976 with only 21 catches. The leader was Alfred Jenkins with 41. Tight end Jim Mitchell was used primarily as a blocker last year and ended up with only 17 catches after receiving 34 in 1975.

Defense: Atlanta's opponents rushed for 2,579 yards in 1976, averaging 4.5 yards every time they ran. Only three teams had a poorer record. Some personnel changes seem inevitable. The defensive ends, however, appear stable. Claude Humphrey came back from knee surgery last year to play well and his opposite number, Jeff Merrow, is called "a street fighter" by Bennett. Mike Tilleman, Mike Lewis, and Jim Bailey are among the returning tackles but they'll be challenged by 6-foot 5-inch, 275-pound Wilson Faumuina, a number one draft selection from San Jose State, where he was all-coast for two consecutive years. Other tackle help may come from third-round choice Edgar Fields of Texas A&M. For the first time since the Falcons started operating in 1966, Tommy Nobis will not be around, and the retirement of the very first player ever drafted by the Falcons leaves a hole at linebacker. Ralph Ortega is the leading can-

didate to assume the middle linebacking spot. Fulton Kuykendall, who is coming back from a back injury last year, is the right linebacker. Greg Brezina is the linebacker on the other side. Atlanta's defensive backs—Rolland Lawrence, Frank Reed, Ray Brown, and Ray Easterling—are a strength.

Special Teams: John James was the most efficient punter in the NFL last year. He averaged 42.1 yards on a league high of 101 punts, and his net average (punt, minus return) was 36.2, the best in the NFL. Nick Mike-Mayer was inconsistent as a place-kicker. Lawrence was a good punt and kick-off returner.

1977: This is not a team without problems but it is not a team without talent, either. The return of Bartkowski will help a lot. And the strong, quiet leadership of Bennett could help even more.

1976 SCORES		Atl.	Opp.
Sept. 12 at LOS ANGELES	.....	14	30
Sept. 19 at Detroit	.....	10	24
Sept. 26 at Chicago	.....	10	0
Oct. 3 PHILADELPHIA	.....	13	14
Oct. 10 at New Orleans	.....	0	30
Oct. 17 CLEVELAND	.....	17	20
Oct. 23 at San Francisco (Saturday)	.....	0	15
Oct. 31 NEW ORLEANS	.....	23	20
Nov. 7 at Seattle	.....	13	30
Nov. 14 SAN FRANCISCO	.....	21	16
Nov. 21 DALLAS	.....	17	10
Nov. 28 at Houston	.....	14	20
Dec. 4 at Los Angeles (Saturday)	.....	0	59
Dec. 12 GREEN BAY	.....	20	24
Won 4	Lost 10	172	312

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS						
Rushing	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD	
Bubba Bean	124	428	3.5	30	2	
Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TD	Int.
Scott Hunter	110	51	46.4	633	5	4
Receiving	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD	
Alfred Jenkins	41	710	17.3	341	6	
Scoring	TD	FG	PAT	Pts.		
Nick Mike-Mayer	0	10-21	20-20	50		
Interceptions	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD	
Rolland Lawrence	6	43	7.2	22	0	

TOP DRAFT CHOICES		
1. Warren Bryant	T	Kentucky
Wilson Faumuina	DT	San Jose State
from St. Louis		
2. K. C. Thielmann	G	Arkansas
3. Edgar Fields	DT	Texas A&M
4. Allan Leavitt	K	Georgia
5. Shelton Diggs	WR	USC

STARTING LINEUPS			
Offense		Defense	
42 John Gilliam	WR	87 Claude Humphrey	LE
61 Brent Adams	LT	74 Mike Tilleman	LT
68 Larron Jackson	LG	69 Mike Lewis	RT
57 Jeff Van Note	C	75 Jeff Merrow	RE
63 Gregg Kindle	RG	50 Greg Brezina	LLB
65 Len Gotshalk	RT	55 Ralph Ortega	MLB
86 Jim Mitchell	TE	54 Fulton Kuykendall	RLB
84 Alfred Jenkins	WR	22 Rolland Lawrence	LCB
10 Steve Bartkowski	QB	28 Frank Reed	RCB
26 Mike Esposito	RB	34 Ray Brown	LS
41 Sonny Collins	RB	32 Ray Easterling	RS
12 Nick Mike-Mayer	K	6 John James	P



Chicago Bears
NFC Central Division 7-7
Coach: Jack Pardee

Bears of '77 Are Worth More Than a Passing Glance



Greg Latta, a 235-pound tight end.

Overview: No question, the Bears are one of the NFL's emerging teams. They finished with a 7-7 record in 1976 but three of the defeats were by a total of six points, including one-point losses to the two teams that played in Super Bowl XI, Oakland and Minnesota. In a rematch with the Vikings later in the season, Chicago turned it around and won 14-13. The Bears upgraded their offense during the off-season by adding Sid Gillman as offensive coordinator and obtaining quarterback Mike Phipps from Cleveland.

Offense: In only two seasons, Walter Payton has become one of the preminent running backs in the NFL. Slowed by injuries as a rookie in 1975, he rebounded last year to run for 1,390 yards, best in the NFC and second only to Buffalo's O.J. Simpson in the entire league. In fact, Payton led most of the season until O.J. came on strong at the end. Payton's 13 touchdowns were one short of the co-leaders, Chuck Foreman and Franco Harris. Payton averaged 4.5 yards per carry and he caught 15 passes—a figure that should go up under Gillman, who figures to open up the

club's offense. The Chicago quarterback likely will be Mike Phipps, the former Purdue passer who came to the Bears for two draft choices, one of them a first-round pick in 1978. It marked the first time the Bears have traded away a first-round selection. Bob Avellini, who completed just 43.5 percent of his passes last year, will push Phipps, however. Avellini has talent and is a good leader, but at 23 he has yet to prove himself as a passer. Virgil Carter also is around. Good protection is assured from a line of Lionel Antoine, Noah Jackson, Dan Neal, Jeff Sevy, and Dennis Lick. Greg Latta is an emerging tight end; he caught 18 passes last year for a 14-yard average. Ted Albrecht, the number one pick from California in the player draft, will help at either tackle or guard. Roland Harper, Payton's sidekick, added 625 yards and provided some excellent blocking. Others who can carry the ball and clear paths are Mike Adamle, Johnny Musso, and rookie Robin Earl, a 250-pound behemoth from Washington. The Bears also picked up Tommy Reamon for a draft choice. Rookie James Scott caught 26 passes last year when knee injuries took Bo Rather and Ron Shanklin out early in the season, and with all three back, plus rookie Brian Baschnagel, the Bears are hopeful.

Defense: The Bears feel blessed with what they consider one of the top defensive lines around in Mike Hartenstine, Jim Osborne, Wally Chambers, and Roger Stillwell, with Royce Berry in reserve. They average only 3.1 years of NFL experience but they combined for most of the Bears' 49 quarterback sacks in 1976. In fact, Chicago had 23 sacks after just four games. Osborne alone had 15 sacks. Chambers is a genuine superstar at tackle. The linebacking talent runs deep. Middle linebacker Don Rives averaged nearly 12 tackles a game. Waymond Bryant and Ross Brupbacher both showed flashes of brilliance at linebacker. Pardee also has second-year pro Tom Hicks, who played exceptionally well in spots last year. And also back is defensive back Doug Buffone, who missed all of 1976 with an injury. When 1976 started, the Bears' secondary was supposed to be a weak area; when the season ended, it turned out to be a strength. Cornerbacks Allan Ellis and Virgil Livers didn't permit a touchdown pass for the first eight weeks of the season, and safeties Craig Clemons and Doug Plank were second and

third in individual tackles. Mike Spivey of Colorado was drafted on the second round to add depth and stability to the backfield. However, Ellis, Livers, Plank, and Clemons started every game last year, and the Bears feel that may be the strongest aspect of the defense. Terry Schmidt is the reserve cornerback, Bill Knox is the backup at safety, so Spivey will have a hard time starting.

Special Teams: Tight end Bob Parsons punted for a 37.6-yard average last year. Bob Thomas's field goal percentage was just under 50, with 12 of 25, but he missed just two less than 40 yards. Livers was an adequate punt returner. Brian Baschnagel returned kickoffs an average of 26 yards.

1977: If Payton stays free of injuries and gets some passing assistance, the Bears will be a serious challenge to Minnesota in the NFC Central.

1976 SCORES	Chi.	Opp.
Sept. 12 DETROIT	10	3
Sept. 19 at San Francisco	19	12
Sept. 26 ATLANTA	0	10
Oct. 3 WASHINGTON	33	7
Oct. 10 at Minnesota	19	20
Oct. 17 at Los Angeles	12	20
Oct. 24 at Dallas	21	31
Oct. 31 MINNESOTA	14	13
Nov. 7 OAKLAND	27	28
Nov. 14 GREEN BAY	24	13
Nov. 21 at Detroit	10	14
Nov. 28 at Green Bay	16	10
Dec. 5 at Seattle	34	7
Dec. 12 DENVER	14	28
Won 7 Lost 7	253	216

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS						
Rushing	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD	
Walter Payton	311	1,390	4.5	60	13	
Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TD	Int.
Bob Avellini	271	118	1,580	43.5	8	15
Receiving	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD	
Roland Harper	29	291	10.0	39	1	
Scoring	TD	FG	PAT	Pts.		
Walter Payton	13	0	0	78		
Interceptions	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD	
Ross Brupbacher	7	49	7.0	25	0	

TOP DRAFT CHOICES		
1. Ted Albrecht	T	California
2. Mike Spivey	DB	Colorado
3. Robin Earl	RB	Washington
from New York Giants		
Choice to Miami		
4. Choice to Pittsburgh		
5. Choice to Oakland		

STARTING LINEUPS			
Offense		Defense	
47 Brian Baschnagel	WR	73 Mike Hartenstine	LE
79 Lionel Antoine	LT	68 Jim Osborne	LT
65 Noah Jackson	LG	60 Wally Chambers	RT
52 Dan Neal	C	71 Roger Stillwell	RE
75 Jeff Sevy	RG	59 Ross Brupbacher	LLB
70 Dennis Lick	RT	57 Don Rives	MLB
88 Greg Latta	TE	50 Waymond Bryant	RLB
89 James Scott	WR	48 Allan Ellis	LCB
7 Bob Avellini	QB	24 Virgil Livers	RCB
35 Roland Harper	RB	46 Doug Plank	LS
34 Walter Payton	RB	43 Craig Clemons	RS
16 Bob Thomas	K	86 Bob Parsons	P

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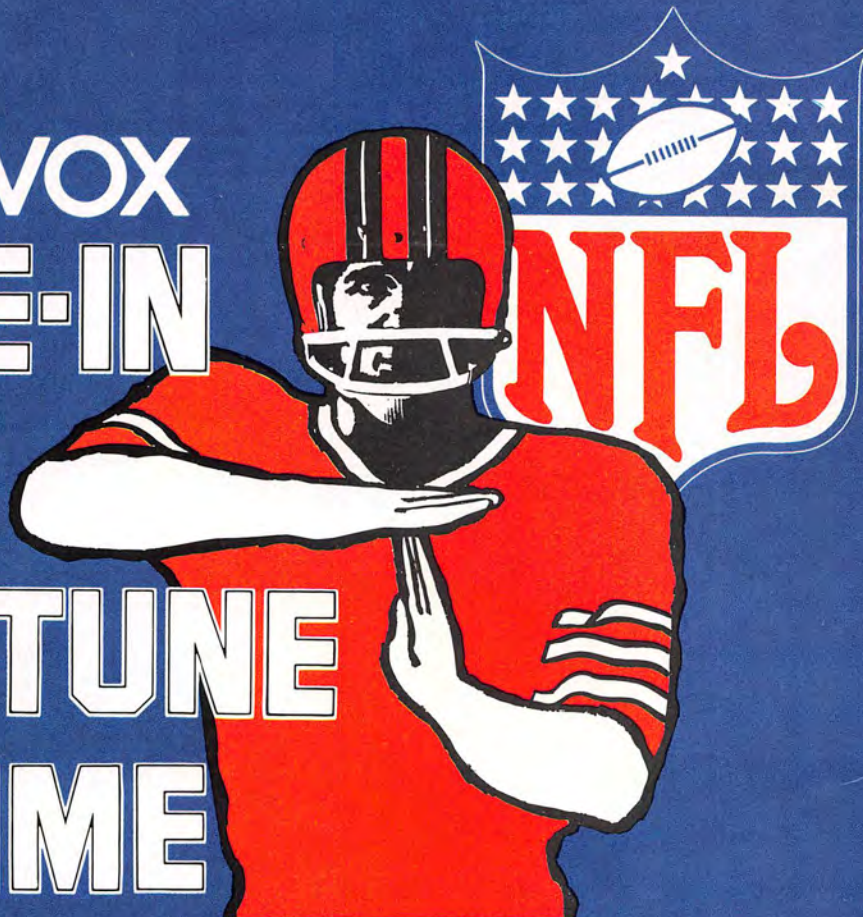
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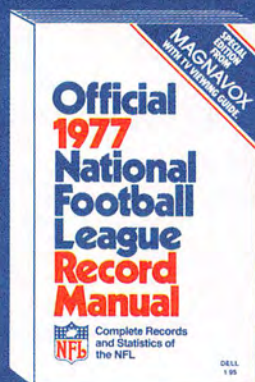


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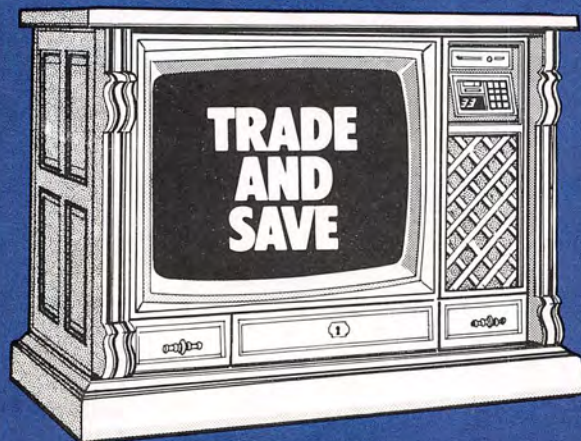
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Dallas Cowboys
NFC Eastern Division 11-3
Coach: Tom Landry

Tony D Should Be What "Big D" Has Been Missing



Ed Jones's nickname is "Too Tall" for a reason.

Overview: A lot of people figured the Cowboys had one major weakness last season. They lacked a breakaway running back. That deficiency was corrected on the morning of the first day of the NFL's college draft last spring, when Dallas traded four later draft choices to Seattle to obtain the Seahawks' number two position in the draft. The Cowboys used the spot to take Pittsburgh's Tony Dorsett. Still, there wasn't much wrong with this team in 1976. It had an 11-3 record, won another NFC East championship, and was barely squeezed out by Los Angeles 14-12 in the first round of the playoffs. The 1976 Cowboys also had more than their share of injuries.

Offense: When Preston Pearson was hurt in training camp (knee), Doug Dennison took over and became the leading ball carrier with 542 yards. He averaged 3.5 yards, and his running mate, Robert Newhouse, averaged 3.9. Scott Laidlaw, the third running back, averaged a respectable 4.5, but he is a power runner, not a speedster. Enter Dorsett. The 194-pound Heisman trophy winner figures

to supply that need. Quarterback Roger Staubach is back after a busy 1976 in which he threw 369 times and completed 208 (both club records) for 2,715 yards and 14 touchdowns. Staubach played the second half of the season with a broken finger but he's healthy now. Drew Pearson had 58 receptions to lead the NFC and rank fourth in the NFL; he averaged nearly 14 yards per catch and complemented the play of Billy Joe DuPree at tight end. DuPree caught a career high 42 passes, averaging 16.2. Golden Richards, who was slowed by injuries, grabbed 19 passes. Butch Johnson, who caught only five passes last year, showed flashes of brilliance, which makes him a threat to start ahead of Richards. Tony Hill, a third-round pick from Stanford who broke a number of Gene Washington's school records, also could contribute at wide receiver. The Cowboys' offense operates behind a seasoned line of Ralph Neely, Herb Scott, John Fitzgerald, Blaine Nye, and Rayfield Wright. Wright is one of the finest offensive linemen in the game. Neely, Fitzgerald, Nye, and Wright started every game last year. Second-year man Burton Lawless was the opening-game starter at left guard. He was the youngster, who as a rookie out of Florida the year before had started for a time, a rarity for a rookie to make that leap in Dallas. However, Scott, also in his second year, wound up starting 10 games at the position, making Lawless a sensational reserve.

Defense: Despite a host of injuries, Dallas played excellent defense, limiting opponents to 194 points and an average of 136 yards passing and 130 yards rushing. The front line of Ed Jones, Jethro Pugh, Larry Cole, and Harvey Martin played with ferocity. Martin, in particular, showed the rest of the league what Landry has been saying for some time—that Harvey is one of the NFL's very best. When middle linebacker Lee Roy Jordan retired, Landry deliberated long and hard before deciding to fill the spot with Bob Breunig. Randy White, the 1974 Outland Trophy winner at Maryland, will move into Breunig's spot at left linebacker. D. D. Lewis mans the other side. Cornerbacks Mel Renfro and Mark Washington both underwent surgery in the offseason (knees), but the defense was stabilized by Benny Barnes at one corner and safeties Charlie Waters and Cliff Harris, both Pro Bowl performers. Barnes and Waters started every game

last year. Harris, however, was injured for most of the preseason, and Randy Hughes started the first two games until Harris could regain his feet. Aaron Kyle is a quality reserve.

Special Teams: Johnson handled every punt last year, averaging 10.9 yards a return. He also averaged 24.8 on kickoffs. Efren Herrera came back from a 1975 knee injury to hit all 34 of his extra points and 18 of 23 field goals. Danny White's 38.4 punting average was adequate, considering he was injured.

1977: With Dorsett, Dallas will have greater backfield speed, and that's about all they lacked a year ago. The Cowboys will very definitely have Super Bowl visions dancing in their heads.

1976 SCORES	Dall.	Opp.
Sept. 12 PHILADELPHIA	27	7
Sept. 19 at New Orleans	24	6
Sept. 26 BALTIMORE	30	27
Oct. 3 at Seattle	28	13
Oct. 10 at New York Giants	24	14
Oct. 17 at St. Louis	17	21
Oct. 24 CHICAGO	31	21
Oct. 31 at Washington	20	7
Nov. 7 NEW YORK GIANTS	9	3
Nov. 15 BUFFALO (Monday)	17	10
Nov. 21 at Atlanta	10	17
Nov. 25 ST. LOUIS (Thanksgiving)	19	14
Dec. 5 at Philadelphia	26	7
Dec. 12 WASHINGTON	14	27
Won 11 Lost 3	296	194

Divisional Playoff	Dall.	Opp.
Dec. 19 LOS ANGELES	12	14

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS									
Rushing	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD				
Doug Dennison	153	542	3.5	14	6				
Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TD	Int.			
Roger Staubach	369	208	2,715	56.4	14	11			
Receiving	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD				
Drew Pearson	58	806	13.9	40	6				
Scoring	TD	FG	PAT	Pts.					
Efren Herrera	0	18-23	34-34	88					
Interceptions	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD				
Mark Washington	4	49	12.3	22	0				

TOP DRAFT CHOICES		
1. Tony Dorsett	RB	Pittsburgh
from Seattle		
Choice to San Diego		
2. Glenn Carano	QB	Nevada-Las Vegas
3. Tony Hill	WR	Stanford
from Philadelphia		
Val Belcher	G	Houston
4. Guy Brown	LB	Houston
5. Andy Frederick	DT	New Mexico

STARTING LINEUPS			
Offense		Defense	
83 Golden Richards	WR	72 Ed Jones	LE
73 Ralph Neely	LT	75 Jethro Pugh	LT
68 Herbert Scott	LG	63 Larry Cole	RT
62 John Fitzgerald	C	79 Harvey Martin	RE
61 Blaine Nye	RG	54 Randy White	LLB
70 Rayfield Wright	RT	53 Bob Breunig	MLB
89 Billy Joe DuPree	TE	50 D. D. Lewis	RLB
88 Drew Pearson	WR	31 Benny Barnes	LCB
12 Roger Staubach	QB	20 Mel Renfro	RCB
26 Preston Pearson	RB	41 Charlie Waters	LS
44 Robert Newhouse	RB	43 Cliff Harris	RS
1 Efren Herrera	K	11 Danny White	P



Detroit Lions
NFC Central Division 6-8
Coach: Tommy Hudspeth

Lions Licking the Wounds of '76, Set for Resurgence



Tight end Sanders was number two receiver.

Overview: Despite injuries to a number of players, including three defensive tackles, Detroit posted the third best defensive record in the NFL in 1976. And Greg Landry had a healthy season, guiding the most productive offense Detroit had fielded since 1972. But injuries, missed opportunities, and bad luck led to a number of close defeats to good teams: 10-3 to Chicago, 10-9 and 31-23 to Minnesota, and 20-17 to Los Angeles. Coach Tommy Hudspeth, who took over from Rick Forzano after the team began the 1976 season with a 1-3 record, hopes to reverse the misfortune this year.

Offense: Landry had the best season of his 10-year career, completing 58 percent of his passes, 17 for touchdowns. However, wide receiver J. D. Hill, obtained from Buffalo for a first draft choice, went out with an injury in the first game. Ray Jarvis stepped in and handled the job well. Then the other wide receiver, Larry Walton, also suffered an injury and gave way to David Hill. The right side of the offensive line stayed healthy and four veterans—tight end Charlie Sanders (9

years), tackle Rocky Freitas (9), guard Bob Kowalkowski (11), and center Jon Morris (13)—blocked well for running backs Dexter Bussey and 240-pound Lawrence Gaines. Lynn Boden, Russ Bolinger, Craig Hertwig, and Jim Yarborough also had creditable blocking performances during the year. The Lions ran the ball well, and they may get some help this season with the unexpected return of former Oklahoma Heisman trophy winner Steve Owens. He'll vie for a backfield spot after sitting out two years following knee surgery in 1974. Owens, the only Lion ever to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a season, will attempt a remarkable comeback. Also around will be 205-pound Rick Kane of San Jose State, a third-round pick. Landry's 1976 passing statistics—57.7 percent completion rate, 2,191 yards—are all the more remarkable, considering his lack of protection. Lions' quarterbacks were sacked 67 times last year, by far the highest figure in the NFL. Looking toward the future, the Lions drafted 6-foot 4-inch quarterback Steve Mathieson of Florida State. Veteran Joe Reed also is around to back up Landry. Offensively, the Lions in 1976 had their best year since 1972. Their rushing average of 4.3 yards per carry was the best in the NFC; they produced the second highest total of first downs in Detroit history (259); and with 20 of their 32 touchdowns coming through the air, it was the Lions' most successful air attack in 14 years, in spite of the quarterback sacks. The addition of Kane and Mathieson solidifies the offense.

Defense: Linebacker Charlie Weaver, the Lions' most valuable defensive player last year, led a defense that gave up only 25 touchdowns despite various physical problems. Tackle Herb Orvis was lost to injury in the second week last year, and his replacement, Doug English, went out at midseason. Then Larry Hand was cut down, forcing right end Jim Mitchell to move to tackle and putting rookie John Woodcock in at the other tackle. Ed O'Neil alternated at the left and middle linebacker positions with Paul Naumoff and Jim Laslavic. Ron Crosby, another in a long string of Penn State linebackers, is a draft selection who will see some action. The secondary spots remained basically the same throughout the season. The experienced foursome of Lem Barney, Charlie West, Dick Jauron, and Levi John-

son helped the team record 24 interceptions, and the team leader was James Hunter, who replaced Jauron in midseason when he was injured. Hunter had seven interceptions. The Lions also chose defensive back Walt Williams of New Mexico State in the second round of the draft, their first picks.

Special Teams: The elusive Hunter, a rookie from Grambling last year, was one of the happy surprises for the Lions. Not only did he play well on defense, but he handled kick-off returns, averaging 26.8 yards a return. Herman Weaver's punting average was 39.5, and only 39 of 84 were returned. Benny Ricardo hit 10 of 14 field goals in half a season after Errol Mann, the nine year veteran, was released.

1977: The Lions may have been the strongest team in the NFL last year with a losing record (6-8), and if they can avoid injuries they should come back strongly.

1976 SCORES	Det.	Opp.
Sept. 12 at Chicago	3	10
Sept. 19 ATLANTA	24	10
Sept. 26 MINNESOTA	9	10
Oct. 3 at Green Bay	14	24
Oct. 10 NEW ENGLAND	30	10
Oct. 17 at Washington	7	20
Oct. 24 at Seattle	41	14
Oct. 31 GREEN BAY	27	6
Nov. 7 at Minnesota	23	31
Nov. 14 at New Orleans	16	17
Nov. 21 CHICAGO	14	10
Nov. 25 BUFFALO (Thanksgiving)	27	14
Dec. 5 at New York Giants	10	24
Dec. 11 LOS ANGELES (Saturday)	17	20
Won 6 Lost 8	262	220

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS					
Rushing	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Dexter Bussey	196	858	4.4	46	3
Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TD
Greg Landry	291	168	2,191	57.7	17
Receiving	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Ray Jarvis	39	822	21.1	74½	5
Scoring	TD	FG	PAT	Pts.	
Benny Ricardo	0	10-14	19-21	49	
Interceptions	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
James Hunter	7	120	17.1	39½	1

TOP DRAFT CHOICES		
1. Choice to Buffalo		
2. Walt Williams	DB	New Mexico State
3. Rick Kane	RB	San Jose State
4. Luther Blue	WR	Iowa State
5. Ron Crosby	LB	Penn State
from Seattle		
Choice to Pittsburgh		

STARTING LINEUPS			
Offense		Defense	
45 Ray Jarvis	WR	82 Ken Sanders	LE
71 Craig Hertwig	LT	80 Herb Orvis	LT
73 Russ Bolinger	LG	77 John Woodcock	RT
63 Jon Morris	C	83 Jim Mitchell	RE
66 Bob Kowalkowski	RG	50 Paul Naumoff	LLB
76 Rocky Freitas	RT	52 Jim Laslavic	MLB
88 Charlie Sanders	TE	59 Charlie Weaver	RLB
49 Larry Walton	WR	20 Lem Barney	LCB
11 Greg Landry	QB	23 Levi Johnson	RCB
24 Dexter Bussey	RB	40 Charlie West	LS
38 Lawrence Gaines	RB	28 James Hunter	RS
1 Benny Ricardo	K	18 Herman Weaver	P

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Green Bay Packers
NFC Central Division 5-9
Coach: Bart Starr

Packers' Time Bomb Could Explode Soon in NFC Central



Barty Smith (33) led Packers in touchdowns.

Overview: The Pack may not be back yet . . . but it's not far away. Bart Starr's team won only five games in 1976 but it lost to Super Bowl champion Oakland by just four points and it was in all four games it played against its two crucial NFC Central opponents, Minnesota and Chicago (losing to the Vikings by 7 and 11 points, to the Bears by 6 and 11).

Offense: Lynn Dickey assumed the mantle of leader in 1976 before he suffered a shoulder separation in the tenth game. He passed for 1,465 yards and seven touchdowns and handled the team effectively in spite of an unsettled running back picture. When Dickey left, Carlos Brown and Randy Johnson took over. Johnson and Brown remain as the backup quarterbacks. Surprising Eric Torkelson, a third-year running back from Connecticut, won a starting running back berth ahead of Willard Harrell, who led the Packers with 435 yards rushing. John Brockington, who closed out 1976 with an 89-yard day, his best of the season, has run for a total of just 840 yards in his last two seasons after

becoming the first NFL runner ever to rush for 1,000 yards in each of his first three seasons. However, Brockington's offensive backfield coach, Bob Lord, feels the former Ohio State All-America has regained his earlier form. Barty Smith also is a running back candidate. Gale Gillingham, one of the finest guards ever to play the game, has retired. The Packers have high hopes for their offensive line, however. Mark Koncar, the club's number one draft choice last year, is a superior lineman at left tackle. Mel Jackson, a twelfth-round choice a year ago, likely will step into Gillingham's position at right guard. Another possibility at guard is second-round draft pick Greg Koch, a 254-pounder from Arkansas, who played guard and tackle in college. Left guard Bruce Van Dyke, at age 33, is a steady performer, as is right tackle Dick Himes, 31. Wide receiver Ken Payne caught 58 passes in 1975 but only 33 last year, when he was double-teamed often. Gerald Tinker, the Olympic sprinter who missed 1976 with knee surgery, could relieve some of the pressure on Payne. Ollie Smith and Steve Odom also are possibilities at wide receiver. Tight end Rich McGeorge, the second leading receiver on the club with 24 catches last year, is solid.

Defense: Changes are likely on the defensive line. Clarence Williams and Alden Roche are the returning starters but that could change if the Packers' two first-round draft choices—both ends—are as good as the scouts say they are. Mike Butler of Kansas and Ezra Johnson of Morris Brown are both big, mobile youngsters. The tackles who played the most last year—Dave Pureifory, Dave Roller, and Mike McCoy—also will be in a dogfight among themselves and with reserve Bob Barber, whom the coaches feel has great potential. At the outside linebacker spots, Gary Weaver, a \$100 waiver bargain from Oakland, and Fred Carr appear set, but Don Hansen will have to fight off Jim Carter, who suffered a broken leg in 1975 and a broken arm in 1976, at middle linebacker. Cornerbacks M.C. McCoy, a rookie a year ago, and Willie Buchanan and safeties Steve Luke and Johnnie Gray are not set yet. McCoy was Perry Smith's backup, but Smith played out his option and was traded to St. Louis. Luke and Steve Wagner, a second-year man, will battle for the strong safety job with seven-year veteran Charley

Hall. The Packers intercepted 11 passes last year and permitted opponents to complete 55.4 percent of their passes. Rookie Tim Moresco of Syracuse, a sixth-round draft choice, will also vie for a job in the secondary.

Special Teams: David Beverly averaged 37 yards a punt. Chester Marcol, the NFL scoring leader in 1972 and 1974, was ailing in 1975 and had an off year in 1976 with 10 of 19 field goals. Gray was a steady punt returner and M.C. McCoy returned kickoffs an average of 25.4 yards. The Packers covered their own kicks well, permitting an average of just 5.6 yards on punt returns and 17.8 on kickoffs.

1977: If the high draft choices can make an impact and if Brockington returns to form, the Packers will be a greatly improved team.

1976 SCORES		G.B.	Opp.
Sept. 12	SAN FRANCISCO	14	26
Sept. 19	at St. Louis	0	29
Sept. 26	at Cincinnati	7	28
Oct. 3	DETROIT	24	14
Oct. 10	SEATTLE (Milwaukee)	27	20
Oct. 17	PHILADELPHIA	28	13
Oct. 24	at Oakland	14	18
Oct. 31	at Detroit	6	27
Nov. 7	NEW ORLEANS (Milwaukee)	32	27
Nov. 14	at Chicago	13	24
Nov. 21	MINNESOTA (Milwaukee)	10	17
Nov. 28	CHICAGO	10	16
Dec. 5	at Minnesota	9	20
Dec. 12	at Atlanta	24	20
Won 5 Lost 9		218	299

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS						
Rushing	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD	
Willard Harrell	130	435	3.3	56	3	
Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TD	Int.
Lynn Dickey	243	115	1,465	47.3	7	14
Receiving	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD	
Ken Payne	33	467	14.2	57 1/2	4	
Scoring	TD	FG	PAT		Pts.	
Chester Marcol	0	10-19	24-27		54	
Interceptions	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD	
Johnnie Gray	4	101	25.2	67	1	

TOP DRAFT CHOICES		
1. Mike Butler	DE	Kansas
Ezra Johnson	DE	Morris Brown
2. Greg Koch	DT	Arkansas
3. Choice to Houston		
Rick Scribner	G	Idaho State
4. Choice to Pittsburgh		
5. Nathan Simpson	RB	Tennessee State

STARTING LINEUPS			
Offense		Defense	
89 Ollie Smith	WR	83 Clarence Williams	LE
79 Mark Koncar	LT	76 M. P. McCoy	LT
61 Bruce Van Dyke	LG	75 Dave Pureifory	RT
54 Larry McCarren	C	87 Alden Roche	RE
71 Mel Jackson	RG	52 Gary Weaver	LLB
72 Dick Himes	RT	58 Don Hansen	MLB
81 Rich McGeorge	TE	53 Fred Carr	RLB
85 Ken Payne	WR	28 Willie Buchanan	LCB
10 Lynn Dickey	QB	29 M. C. McCoy	RCB
26 Eric Torkelson	RB	46 Steve Luke	LS
42 John Brockington	RB	24 Johnnie Gray	RS
13 Chester Marcol	K	11 David Beverly	P



Los Angeles Rams
NFC Western Division 10-3-1
Coach: Chuck Knox

Quarterback Riddle Is Rams' Only Unsolved Problem



Monte Jackson led the NFL in interceptions.

Overview: If you believe some experts, you might think the only problem Los Angeles coach Chuck Knox has is at quarterback. And you know what? They might be right!

Offense: When the 1976 season started, James Harris was the number one quarterback in Los Angeles and Pat Haden and Ron Jaworski were the reserves. But when an injury struck Harris in the fifth preseason game, Jaworski got a chance to play. When Jaworski was injured in the opener, Haden stepped in. And no matter who was carrying out Knox's play-calling, the Rams continued to win. Harris took over again in the third week, and seven days later in Miami he passed for 436 yards in a 31-28 victory over the Dolphins. But the following week he was sacked 10 times in a 16-0 loss to San Francisco, was injured again, and Haden started six of the last nine games of the season. Now Jaworski is gone, Joe Namath is in camp, and the quarterback situation is still unsettled. "We'll line them up the way they finished last year," said

Knox, meaning, it'll be Haden, Harris, and Namath, in that order when training camp opens. One constant, however, is the rest of the offensive machinery, which features 1,168-yard running back Lawrence McCutcheon, 688-yard fullback John Cappelletti, and two of the finest wide receivers in the game—Harold Jackson and Ron Jessie. Jackson's 39 receptions went for an average of 19.3 yards; Jessie's 34 averaged 22.9. The running backs, including reserves Jim Bertelsen and Cullen Bryant, also can catch the ball. The Rams' offensive line is one of the finest in the game, even though two of its members completed only their second year in the NFL in 1976. Tom Mack, the perennial all-pro, is the left guard. Left tackle Doug France and right guard Dennis Harrah, a pair of first-round draft choices in 1975, have outstanding potential. Center Rich Saul was a Pro Bowl selection last season, and right tackle John Williams is a dependable nine-year veteran. Tight end Bob Klein announced his retirement, but Charles Young, who came from Philadelphia in the trade for Jaworski, averaged 54 receptions a season in four years.

Defense: It really won't be the same when the Rams' defense takes the field. Tackle Merlin Olsen, a member of that unit for 15 memorable seasons, has retired. Olsen's spot at left tackle will be filled by one of two promising young players—Cody Jones, 26, or Mike Fanning, 24. The other tackle, Larry Brooks, is one of the game's most underrated players, and the ends, Jack Youngblood and Fred Dryer, are both perennial Pro Bowl types. The Rams limited opponents to a meager 112 yards a game by rushing in 1976 and a strong set of linebackers was one reason why. Jim Youngblood, Jack Reynolds, and Isiah Robertson average barely five years of NFL experience but they play with a field-smartness beyond their years. The defensive backfield, once considered weak, has become a tremendous force. Rod Perry and Monte Jackson patrol the corners, and with 8 and 10 interceptions in 1976, they may be the quickest pair in the NFL. Dave Elmendorf teams with Bill Simpson at safety. The four deep men helped the Rams lead the NFL in interceptions with 32.

Special Teams: This is one of the few potential problem areas on the team. Tom Dempsey had an off-year as a placekicker in 1976. It became evident when his field

goal try against Minnesota in the NFC championship game was blocked and resulted in a Vikings' touchdown. Rusty Jackson's 39-yard punting average was satisfactory, but he was shaky in the playoffs. The Rams signed USC's Glen Walker, who both punts and placekicks. Cullen Bryant had an excellent 11.1-yard average returning punts, and 28.7 average on kickoffs.

1977: Los Angeles has a 44-11-1 record under Knox, and the Rams will be contenders again . . . no matter who's at quarterback.

1976 SCORES		L.A.	Opp.
Sept. 12 at Atlanta		30	14
Sept. 19 at Minnesota		10	10
Sept. 26 NEW YORK GIANTS		24	10
Oct. 3 at Miami		31	28
Oct. 11 SAN FRANCISCO (Monday)		0	16
Oct. 17 CHICAGO		20	12
Oct. 24 at New Orleans		16	10
Oct. 31 SEATTLE		45	6
Nov. 8 at Cincinnati (Monday)		12	20
Nov. 14 ST. LOUIS		28	30
Nov. 21 at San Francisco		23	3
Nov. 28 NEW ORLEANS		33	14
Dec. 4 ATLANTA (Saturday)		59	0
Dec. 11 at Detroit (Saturday)		20	17
Won 10	Lost 3	Tied 1	351 190

Divisional Playoff		
Dec. 19 at Dallas		14 12
NFC Championship		
Dec. 26 at Minnesota		13 24

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Rushing		Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
L. McCutcheon		291	1,168	4.0	40	9
Passing		Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TD
Pat Haden		105	60	896	57.1	8
Receiving		No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Harold Jackson		39	751	19.3	65	5
Scoring		TD	FG	PAT	Pts.	
Tom Dempsey		0	17-26	36-44	87	
Interceptions		No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Monte Jackson		10	173	17.3	45	3

TOP DRAFT CHOICES

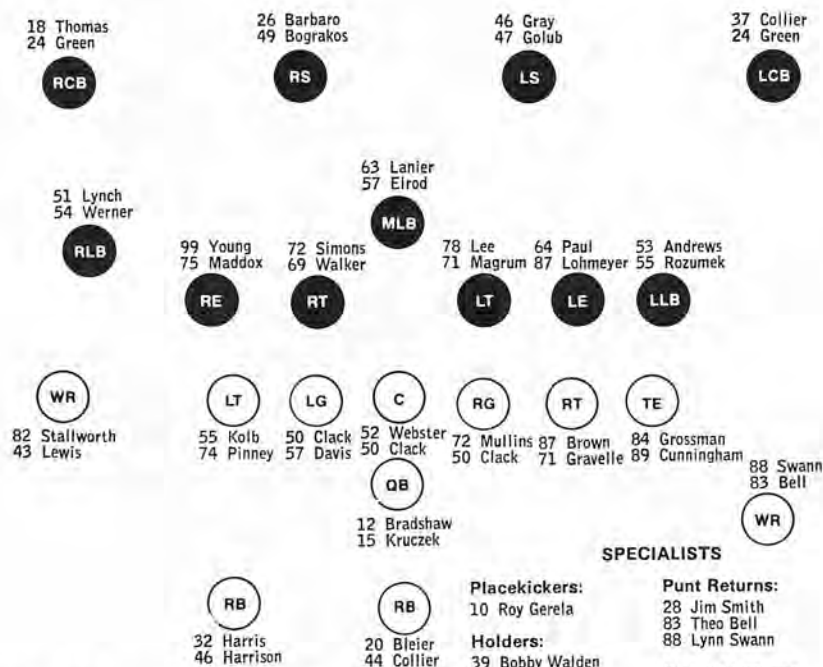
1. Bob Brudzinski	LB	Ohio State
2. Nolan Cromwell	DB	Kansas
3. Ed Fulton	G	Maryland
4. Vince Ferragamo	QB	Nebraska
5. Donnie Hickman	G	USC
6. Bill Waddy	WR	Colorado
7. Wendell Tyler	RB	UCLA
8. Jeff Williams	G	Rhode Island
9. Jim Youngblood	LB	LE
10. Mike Fanning	LT	LT
11. Larry Brooks	RT	RT
12. Fred Dryer	RE	RE
13. Jim Youngblood	LLB	LLB
14. Jack Reynolds	MLB	MLB
15. Isiah Robertson	RLB	RLB
16. Rod Perry	LCB	LCB
17. Monte Jackson	RCB	RCB
18. Dave Elmendorf	LS	LS
19. Bill Simpson	RS	RS
20. Rusty Jackson	P	P

STARTING LINEUPS

Offense		Defense	
29 Harold Jackson	WR	85 Jack Youngblood	LE
77 Doug France	LT	79 Mike Fanning	LT
65 Tom Mack	LG	90 Larry Brooks	RT
61 Rich Saul	C	89 Fred Dryer	RE
60 Dennis Harrah	RG	53 Jim Youngblood	LLB
75 John Williams	RT	64 Jack Reynolds	MLB
83 Terry Nelson	TE	58 Isiah Robertson	RLB
81 Ron Jessie	WR	49 Rod Perry	LCB
11 Pat Haden	QB	28 Monte Jackson	RCB
30 L. McCutcheon	RB	42 Dave Elmendorf	LS
22 John Cappelletti	RB	48 Bill Simpson	RS
10 Tom Dempsey	K	9 Rusty Jackson	P

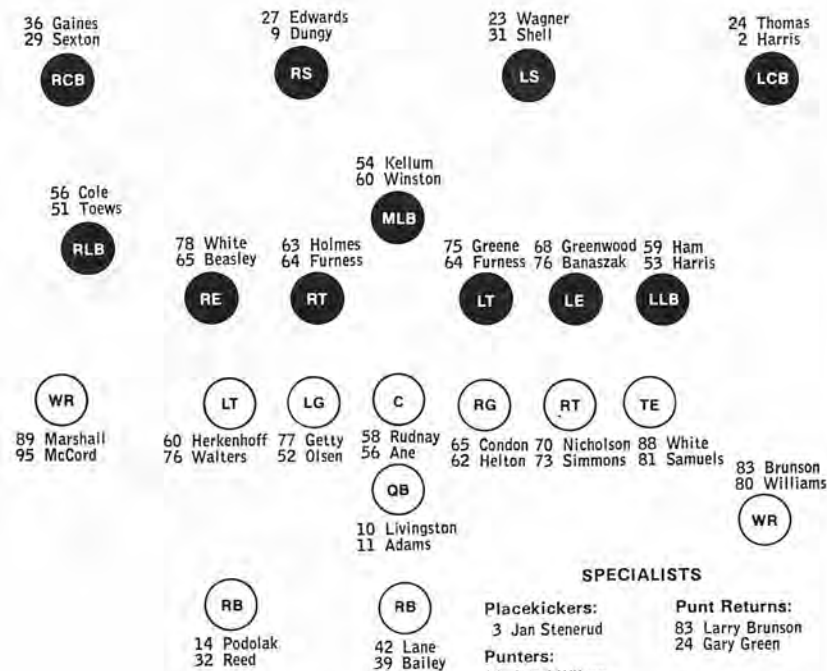
DEPTH CHARTS

Chiefs Defense



Steelers Offense

Steelers Defense



Chiefs Offense

SPECIALISTS

Placekickers:
10 Roy Gerela

Holders:
39 Bobby Walden
16 Neil Graff

Punter:
39 Bobby Walden

Punt Returns:
28 Jim Smith
83 Theo Bell
88 Lynn Swann

Kickoff Returns:
37 Laverne Smith
44 Mike Collier
85 Ernest Pough

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Placekickers:
3 Jan Stenerud

Punters:
44 Jerrel Wilson
89 Henry Marshall

Kick Centers:
56 Charlie Ane
52 Orrin Olsen

Punt Returns:
83 Larry Brunson
24 Gary Green

Kickoff Returns:
80 Lawrence Williams
83 Larry Brunson

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS



3 JAN STENERUD
K 6-2 187



6 MARK VITALI
QB 6-5 209



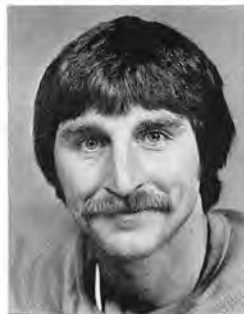
7 MIKE NOTT
QB 6-3 200



10 MIKE LIVINGSTON
QB 6-4 211



11 TONY ADAMS
QB 6-0 198



14 ED PODOLAK
RB 6-1 205



18 EMMITT THOMAS
CB 6-2 192



19 RICKY WESSON
WR 5-9 163



21 ARNOLD MORGADO
RB 6-0 210

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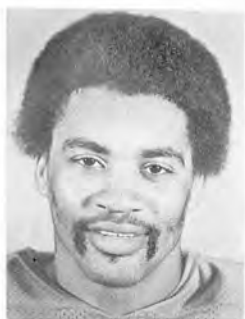
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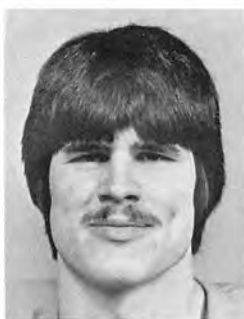
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS



22 GLYNN HARRISON
RB 5-11 191



24 GARY GREEN
CB 5-11 184



26 GARY BARBARO
S 6-3 198



27 WOODY GREEN
RB 6-1 205



32 TONY REED
RB 5-11 197



35 ANDRE HERRERA
RB 6-0 198



37 TIM COLLIER
CB 5-11 166



39 MARK BAILEY
RB 6-3 237



42 MacARTHUR LANE
RB 6-1 220



44 JERREL WILSON
P 6-2 222



45 PAT McNEIL
RB 5-9 208



46 TIM GRAY
S 6-1 200



47 CHRIS GOLUB
S 6-2 196



48 STEVE TAYLOR
DB 6-3 204



49 STEVE BOGRAKOS
S 5-11 171



51 JIM LYNCH
LB 6-1 225



52 ORRIN OLSEN
C 6-1 245



53 BILLY ANDREWS
LB 6-0 220



54 CLYDE WERNER
LB 6-3 230



55 DAVE ROZUMEK
LB 6-1 212



56 CHARLIE ANE
C 6-1 233



57 JIMBO ELROD
LB 6-0 223



58 JACK RUDNAY
C 6-3 240



60 MATT HERKENHOFF
T 6-4 255



62 DARIUS HELTON
G 6-2 260



63 WILLIE LANIER
LB 6-1 245



64 WHITNEY PAUL
DE 6-3 220



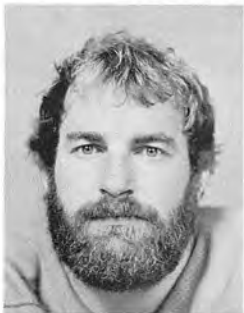
65 TOM CONDON
G 6-3 240



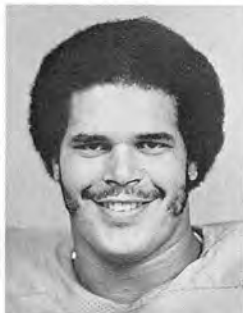
69 CORNELIUS WALKER
DT 6-1 252



70 JIM NICHOLSON
T 6-6 275



71 BUD MAGRUM
DT 6-4 255



72 KEITH SIMONS
DT 6-3 254



73 BOB SIMMONS
T 6-4 260



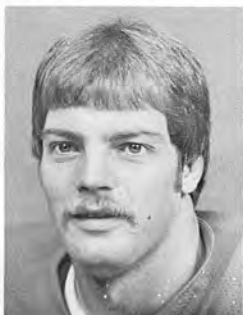
74 LAWRENCE ESTES
DE/DT 6-6 250



75 BOB MADDOX
DE/DT 6-5 250



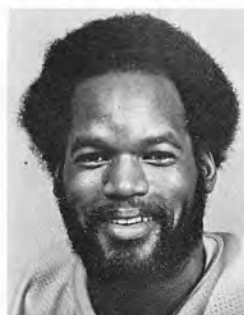
76 ROD WALTERS
T 6-3 258



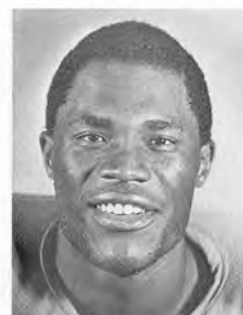
77 CHARLIE GETTY
G 6-4 260



78 WILLIE LEE
DT 6-4 249



80 LAWRENCE WILLIAMS
WR 5-10 173



81 ANDRE SAMUELS
TE 6-4 229



83 LARRY BRUNSON
WR 5-11 180



85 EDWIN BECKMAN
TE 6-4 223



86 WADDELL SMITH
WR 6-1 162



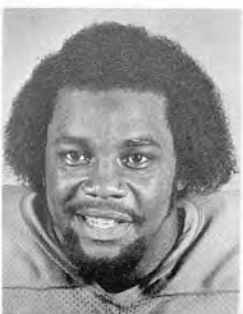
87 JOHN LOHMEYER
DE 6-4 229



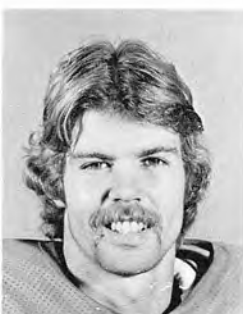
88 WALTER WHITE
TE 6-3 218



89 HENRY MARSHALL
WR 6-2 205



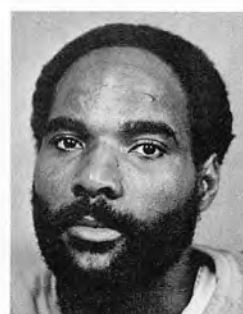
91 RAYMOND BURKS
LB 6-2 217



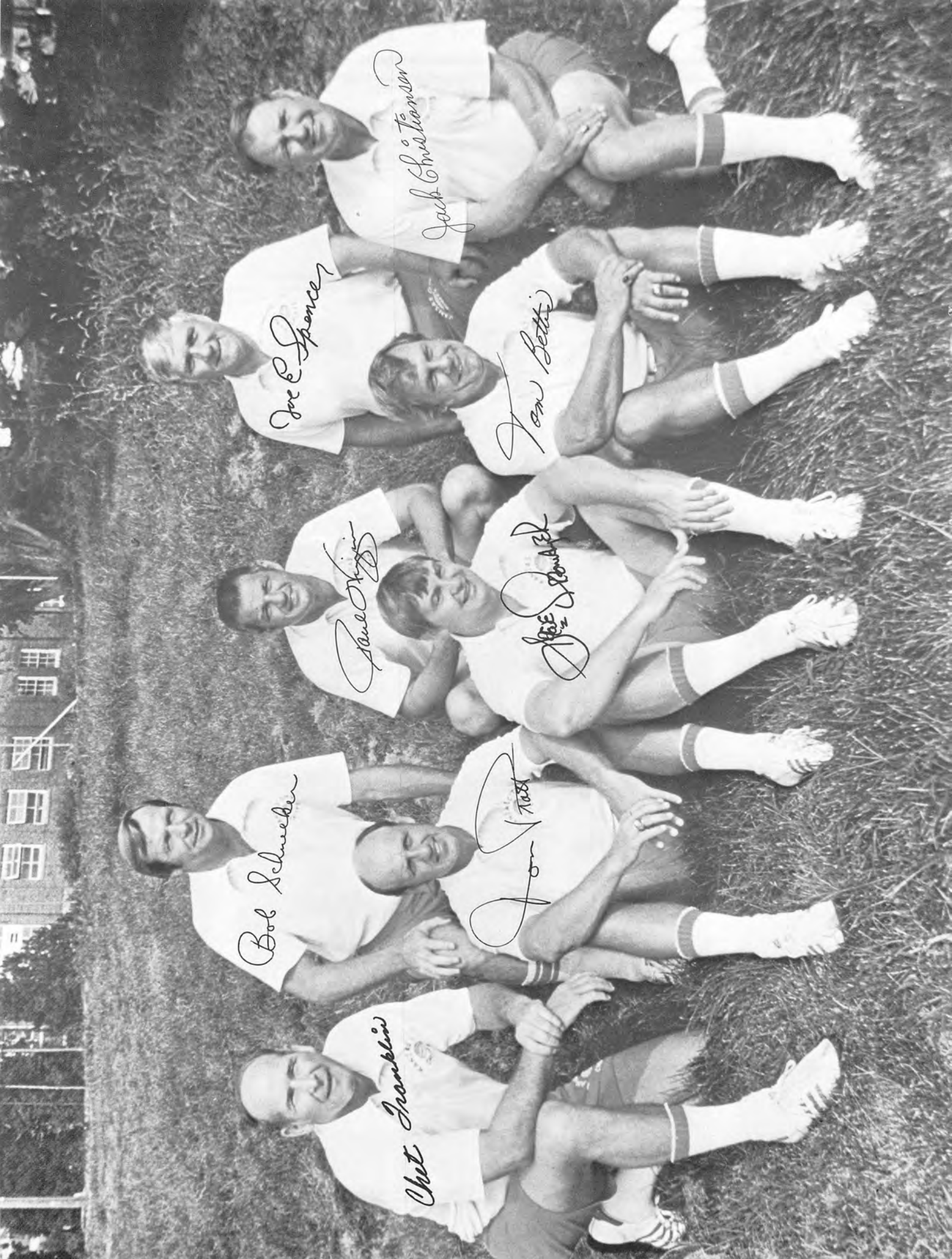
95 TRAVIS McCORD
WR 6-1 180



96 THOMAS HOWARD
LB 6-2 208



99 WILBUR YOUNG
DE 6-6 290



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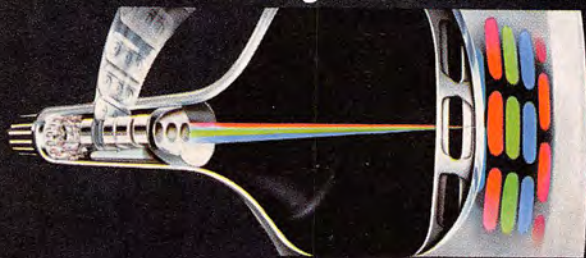
No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	College
3	Stenerud, Jan	K	6-2	187	11	Montana State
6	Vitali, Mark	QB	6-5	209	R	Purdue
7	Nott, Mike	QB	6-3	200	2	Santa Clara
10	Livingston, Mike	QB	6-4	211	10	Southern Methodist
11	Adams, Tony	QB	6-0	198	3	Utah State
14	Podolak, Ed	RB	6-1	205	9	Iowa
18	Thomas, Emmitt	CB	6-2	192	12	Bishop
19	Wesson, Ricky	WR	5-9	163	R	Southern Methodist
20	Williams, Jackie	S	5-9	172	1	Texas A&M
21	Morgado, Arnold	RB	6-0	210	1	Hawaii
22	Harrison, Glynn	RB	5-11	191	2	Georgia
24	Green, Gary	CB	5-11	184	R	Baylor
26	Barbaro, Gary	S	6-3	198	2	Nicholls State
27	*Green, Woody	RB	6-1	205	4	Arizona State
32	Reed, Tony	RB	5-11	197	R	Colorado
35	Herrera, Andre	RB	6-0	198	R	Southern Illinois
37	Collier, Tim	CB	5-11	166	2	East Texas State
39	Bailey, Mark	RB	6-3	237	R	California State Long Beach
42	Lane, MacArthur	RB	6-1	220	10	Utah State
44	Wilson, Jerrel	P	6-2	222	15	Southern Mississippi
45	McNeill, Pat	RB	5-9	208	2	Baylor
46	Gray, Tim	S	6-1	200	3	Texas A&M
47	Golub, Chris	S	6-2	196	R	Kansas
49	Bogarakos, Steve	S	5-11	171	1	Central Michigan
51	Lynch, Jim	LB	6-1	225	11	Notre Dame
52	Olsen, Orrin	C	6-1	245	2	Brigham Young
53	Andrews, Billy	LB	6-0	220	11	Southeastern Louisiana
54	Werner, Clyde	LB	6-3	230	7	Washington
55	Rozumek, Dave	LB	6-1	212	2	New Hampshire
56	Ane, Charlie	C	6-1	233	3	Michigan State
57	Elrod, Jimbo	LB	6-0	223	2	Oklahoma
58	Rudnay, Jack	C	6-3	240	8	Northwestern
60	Herkenhoff, Matt	T	6-4	255	2	Minnesota
62	Helton, Darius	G	6-2	260	R	North Carolina Central
63	Lanier, Willie	LB	6-1	245	11	Morgan State
64	Paul, Whitney	DE	6-3	220	2	Colorado
65	Condon, Tom	G	6-3	240	4	Boston College
69	Walker, Cornelius	DT	6-1	252	1	Rice
70	Nicholson, Jim	T	6-6	275	4	Michigan State
71	Magrum, Bud	DT	6-4	255	1	Colorado
72	Simons, Keith	DT	6-3	254	2	Minnesota
73	Simmons, Bob	T	6-4	260	1	Texas
74	Estes, Lawrence	DE/DT	6-6	250	6	Alcorn A&M
75	Maddox, Bob	DE/DT	6-5	250	4	Frostburg State
76	Walters, Rod	T	6-3	258	2	Iowa
77	Getty, Charlie	G	6-4	260	4	Penn State
78	Lee, Willie	DT	6-4	249	2	Bethune-Cookman
80	Williams, Lawrence	WR	5-10	173	2	Texas Tech
81	Samuels, Andre	TE	6-4	229	R	Bethune-Cookman
83	Brunson, Larry	WR	5-11	180	4	Colorado
85	Beckman, Edwin	TE	6-4	223	R	Florida State
86	Smith, Waddell	WR	6-1	162	R	Kansas
87	Lohmeyer, John	DE	6-4	229	4	Emporia State
88	White, Walter	TE	6-3	218	3	Maryland
89	Marshall, Henry	WR	6-2	205	2	Missouri
91	Burks, Raymond	LB	6-2	217	R	UCLA
95	McCord, Travis	WR	6-1	180	R	Drake
96	Howard, Thomas	LB	6-2	208	R	Texas Tech
99	Young, Wilbur	DE	6-6	290	7	William Penn

*Injured list.

Why horror movies are more horrible on the Quintrix II color picture tube.



**An extra prefocus lens for sharpness. Plus
an in-line tube for brightness and contrast.**



Blood is bloodier. Fangs are sharper. Claws are crueler. You'll love it.

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And now Quintrix II.™

To our extra prefocus lens Quintrix II adds an in-line picture tube. With a slotted shadow mask. A phosphor strip screen. And a black matrix system. For improved brightness and contrast.

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Quintrix II by Panasonic. There'll be more monster in every monster movie you see.

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just slightly ahead of our time.

Chiefs

OFFENSE

89	Henry Marshall	SE
60	Matt Herkenhoff	LT
77	Charlie Getty	LG
58	Jack Rudnay	C
65	Tom Condon	RG
70	Jim Nicholson	RT
88	Walter White	TE
83	Larry Brunson	FL
10	Mike Livingston	QB
14	Ed Podolak	HB
42	MacArthur Lane	FB

NUMERICAL ROSTER

3	Stenerud, Jan	K
6	Vitali, Mark	QB
7	Nott, Mike	QB
10	Livingston, Mike	QB
11	Adams, Tony	QB
14	Podolak, Ed	RB
18	Thomas, Emmitt	CB
19	Wesson, Ricky	WR
20	Williams, Jackie	S
21	Morgado, Arnold	RB
22	Harrison, Glynn	RB
24	Green, Gary	CB
26	Barbaro, Gary	S
27	*Green, Woody	RB
32	Reed, Tony	RB
35	Herrera, Andre	RB
37	Collier, Tim	CB
39	Bailey, Mark	RB
42	Lane, MacArthur	RB
44	Wilson, Jerrel	P

45	McNeil, Pat	RB
46	Gray, Tim	S
47	Golub, Chris	S
49	Bogarakos, Steve	S
51	Lynch, Jim	LB
52	Olsen, Orrin	C
53	Andrews, Billy	LB
54	Werner, Clyde	LB
55	Rozumek, Dave	LB
56	Ane, Charlie	C
57	Elrod, Jimbo	LB
58	Rudnay, Jack	C
60	Herkenhoff, Matt	T
62	Helton, Darius	G
63	Lanier, Willie	LB
64	Paul, Whitney	DE
65	Condon, Tom	G
69	Walker, Cornelius	DT
70	Nicholson, Jim	T
71	Magrum, Bud	DT

DEFENSE

64	Whitney Paul	LE
78	Willie Lee	LT
72	Keith Simons	RT
99	Wilbur Young	RE
53	Billy Andrews	LLB
63	Willie Lanier	MLB
51	Jim Lynch	RLB
37	Tim Collier	LCB
46	Tim Gray	SS
26	Gary Barbaro	WS
18	Emmitt Thomas	RCB

72	Simons, Keith	DT
73	Simmons, Bob	T
74	Estes, Lawrence	DE/DT
75	Maddox, Bob	DE/DT
76	Walters, Rod	T
77	Getty, Charlie	G
78	Lee, Willie	DT
80	Williams, Lawrence	WR
81	Samuels, Andre	TE
83	Brunson, Larry	WR
85	Beckman, Edwin	TE
86	Smith, Waddell	WR
87	Lohmeyer, John	DE
88	White, Walter	TE
89	Marshall, Henry	WR
91	Burks, Raymond	LB
95	McCord, Travis	WR
96	Howard, Thomas	LB
99	Young, Wilbur	DE

*Injured list.

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Steelers

OFFENSE

82	John Stallworth	WR
55	Jon Kolb	LT
50	Jim Clack	LG
52	Mike Webster	C
72	Gerry Mullins	RG
87	Larry Brown	RT
84	Randy Grossman	TE
88	Lynn Swann	WR
12	Terry Bradshaw	QB
20	Rocky Bleier	RB
32	Franco Harris	RB

DEFENSE

68	L. C. Greenwood	LE
75	Joe Greene	LT
63	Ernie Holmes	RT
78	Dwight White	RE
59	Jack Ham	LLB
54	Marv Kellum	MLB
56	Robin Cole	RLB
24	J. T. Thomas	LCB
36	Wentford Gaines	RCB
23	Mike Wagner	LS
27	Glen Edwards	RS

NUMERICAL ROSTER

2	Harris, Mike	DB	37	Smith, Laverne	RB	64	Furness, Steve	DT/DE
9	Dungy, Tony	S	38	Thornton, Sidney	RB	65	Beasley, Tom	DT/DE
10	Gerela, Roy	K	39	Walden, Bobby	P	66	Petersen, Ted	T
12	Bradshaw, Terry	QB	43	Lewis, Frank	WR	67	Dunn, Gary	DT
15	Kruczek, Mike	QB	44	Collier, Mike	RB	68	Greenwood, L. C.	DE
16	Graff, Neil	QB	45	Allen, Jim	CB	71	Gravelle, Gordon	T
18	Stoudt, Cliff	QB	46	Harrison, Reggie	RB	72	Mullins, Gerry	G/T
20	Bleier, Rocky	RB	49	Roy, Ken	TE	74	Pinney, Ray	C/T
22	Dixon, Vollon	WR	50	Clack, Jim	G/C	75	Greene, Joe	DT
23	Wagner, Mike	S	51	Toews, Loren	LB	76	Banaszak, John	DE
24	Thomas, J. T.	CB	52	Webster, Mike	C	77	Courson, Steve	G
27	Edwards, Glen	S	53	Harris, Paul	LB	78	White, Dwight	DE
28	Smith, Jim	WR	54	Kellum, Marv	LB	79	Kelly, Roosevelt	DE
29	Sexton, Brent	CB	55	Kolb, Jon	T	82	Stallworth, John	WR
30	LaCrosse, Dave	LB	56	Cole, Robin	LB	83	Bell, Theo	WR
31	Shell, Donnie	S	57	Davis, Sam	G	84	Grossman, Randy	TE
32	Harris, Franco	RB	59	Ham, Jack	LB	85	Pough, Ernie	WR
33	Fuqua, John	RB	60	Winston, Dennis	LB	87	Brown, Larry	T/TE
35	Deloplane, Jack	RB	62	Audick, Dan	G	88	Swann, Lynn	WR
36	Gaines, Wentford	CB	63	Holmes, Ernie	DT	89	Cunningham, Bennie	TE

SCOTCH SO SMOOTH IT NEVER MAKES WAVES.

All good Scotch begins with the best of intentions and the finest of ingredients. It is in the delicate process of blending that differences are struck.



And in the taste of Cutty Sark there are striking differences.

To make good Scotch, the whiskies comprising the blend are aged in separate oaken casks, then blended together. To make Cutty Sark, the whiskies are also aged separately, then blended together, then returned to cask for up to a year and a half longer. And only then bottled.

This results in a Scots Whisky whose elements are perfectly knit, with a taste that's unusually smooth.

And this is one reason why, whether you prefer Cutty Sark with water, with soda, or neat, it glides over the palate with nary a ripple.

CUTTY SARK

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86 PROOF BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY DISTILLED AND BOTTLED IN SCOTLAND. IMPORTED BY THE BUCKINGHAM CORPORATION, NEW YORK, N.Y.

STEELERS 1977 ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	College
2	Harris, Mike	DB	5-7	176	R	Grambling State
9	Dungy, Tony	S	6-0	188	R	Minnesota
10	Gerela, Roy	K	5-10	185	9	New Mexico State
12	Bradshaw, Terry	QB	6-3	215	8	Louisiana Tech
15	Kruczek, Mike	QB	6-1	205	2	Boston College
16	Graff, Neil	QB	6-3	200	4	Wisconsin
18	Stoudt, Cliff	QB	6-4	218	R	Youngstown State
20	Bleier, Rocky	RB	5-11	210	9	Notre Dame
22	Dixon, Vollen	WR	6-2	195	R	San Diego State
23	Wagner, Mike	S	6-1	200	7	Western Illinois
24	Thomas, J. T.	CB	6-2	196	5	Florida State
27	Edwards, Glen	S	6-0	185	7	Florida A&M
28	Smith, Jim	WR	6-2	205	R	Michigan
29	Sexton, Brent	CB	6-1	190	1	Elon
30	LaCrosse, Dave	LB	6-3	210	R	Wake Forest
31	Shell, Donnie	S	5-11	190	4	South Carolina State
32	Harris, Franco	RB	6-2	225	6	Penn State
33	Fuqua, John	RB	6-11	200	9	Morgan State
35	Deloplain, Jack	RB	5-10	205	2	Salem (W. Va.)
36	Gaines, Wentford	CB	6-0	185	1	Cincinnati
37	Smith, Laverne	RB	5-10	193	R	Kansas
38	Thornton, Sidney	RB	5-11	230	R	Northwestern Louisiana
39	Walden, Bobby	P	6-1	197	14	Georgia
43	Lewis, Frank	WR	6-1	196	7	Grambling State
44	Collier, Mike	RB	5-11	200	2	Morgan State
45	Allen, Jim	CB	6-2	194	4	UCLA
46	Harrison, Reggie	RB	5-11	220	4	Cincinnati
49	Roy, Ken	TE	6-2	220	R	Rice University
50	Clack, Jim	G/C	6-3	250	1	Wake Forest
51	Toews, Loren	LB	6-3	222	5	California
52	Webster, Mike	C	6-1	250	4	Wisconsin
53	Harris, Paul	LB	6-3	215	8	Alabama
54	Kellum, Marv	LB	6-2	225	4	Wichita State
55	Kolb, Jon	T	6-2	262	9	Oklahoma State
56	Cole, Robin	LB	6-2	220	R	New Mexico
57	Davis, Sam	G	6-1	255	11	Allen University
59	Ham, Jack	LB	6-1	225	7	Penn State
60	Winston, Dennis	LB	6-0	228	R	Arkansas
62	Audick, Dan	G	6-3	246	R	Hawaii
63	Holmes, Ernie	DT	6-3	260	6	Texas Southern
64	Furness, Steve	DT/DE	6-4	255	6	Rhode Island
65	Beasley, Tom	DT/DE	6-5	253	R	Virginia Tech
66	Petersen, Ted	T	6-5	244	R	Eastern Illinois
67	Dunn, Gary	DT	6-3	247	2	Miami (Fla.)
68	Greenwood, L. C.	DE	6-6	250	9	Arkansas AM&N
71	Gravelle, Gordon	T	6-5	250	6	Brigham Young
72	Mullins, Gerry	G/T	6-3	244	7	Southern California
74	Pinney, Ray	C/T	6-4	240	2	Washington
75	Greene, Joe	DT	6-4	275	9	North Texas State
76	Banaszak, John	DE	6-3	244	3	Eastern Michigan
77	Courson, Steve	G	6-1	260	R	South Carolina
78	White, Dwight	DE	6-4	255	7	East Texas State
79	Kelly, Roosevelt	DE	6-3	220	R	Eastern Kentucky
82	Stallworth, John	WR	6-2	183	4	Alabama A&M
83	Bell, Theo	WR	5-11	180	2	Arizona
84	Grossman, Randy	TE	6-1	215	4	Temple
85	Pough, Ernie	WR	6-1	174	2	Texas Southern
87	Brown, Larry	T/TE	6-4	245	7	Kansas
88	Swann, Lynn	WR	6-0	180	4	Southern California
89	Cunningham, Bennie	TE	6-4	247	2	Clemson

Everyday's special at Arrowhead Inn. Because everyday means another delectable dinner special for only \$5 per person.

Monday: Breast of Chicken Cordon Bleu
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Wednesday: Seafood Crepe Veronique
Thursday: Chef's Secret Dinner
Friday: Broiled Mahi-Mahi

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Children's menu from \$2.25 to \$2.95!
 Free pictures for the kids!



HALFTIME: WORLDS OF FUN

Kansas City's Worlds of Fun offers a brand new array of shows and attractions — three and one-half hours in all — for the 1977 season. A variety of different shows provides the very best in entertainment for the entire family.

daily is the Tivoli Music Hall production, "C'mon and Sing." Sixteen talented high school and college entertainers sing and dance to the sounds of a 14-piece orchestra in the 1,500-seat, air-conditioned theatre.

The lavish 35-minute musical review features familiar

Broadway songs like "Lullabye of Broadway" and "The Best Things in Life Are Free" which contrast with the fast-paced singing and dancing of "Turn the Beat Around" and Neil Sedaka's "Steppin' Out." Over 300 pieces of costume, spectacular set designs and the sheer energy of the young performers make the Tivoli one of the most exciting and rewarding features of Worlds of Fun.

Worlds of Fun is located on I-435 at exit 54 in Kansas City, Mo. and is open daily through Labor Day and weekends in the fall.

RESTAURANT & BAR

Sam Wilson's

MEAT MARKET



Night LUNCH AND DINNER

Purveyor of the Finest in Meats and Other Essentials • Tender Beef • Down-Home Fried Chicken • Barbecued Specialties among other fine eats.

SUMPTUOUS SALAD BAR

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MEN, WOMEN and children

ALL

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Luncheon served Monday thru Saturday
Dinner served nightly and Noon-9 PM Sunday.

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THE LOUNGE**



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September 19—
San Francisco at Pittsburgh

September 26—
New England at Cleveland

October 3—
Oakland at Kansas City

October 10—
Los Angeles at Chicago

October 17—
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh

October 24—
Minnesota at Los Angeles

October 31—
New York Giants at St. Louis

November 7—
Washington at Baltimore

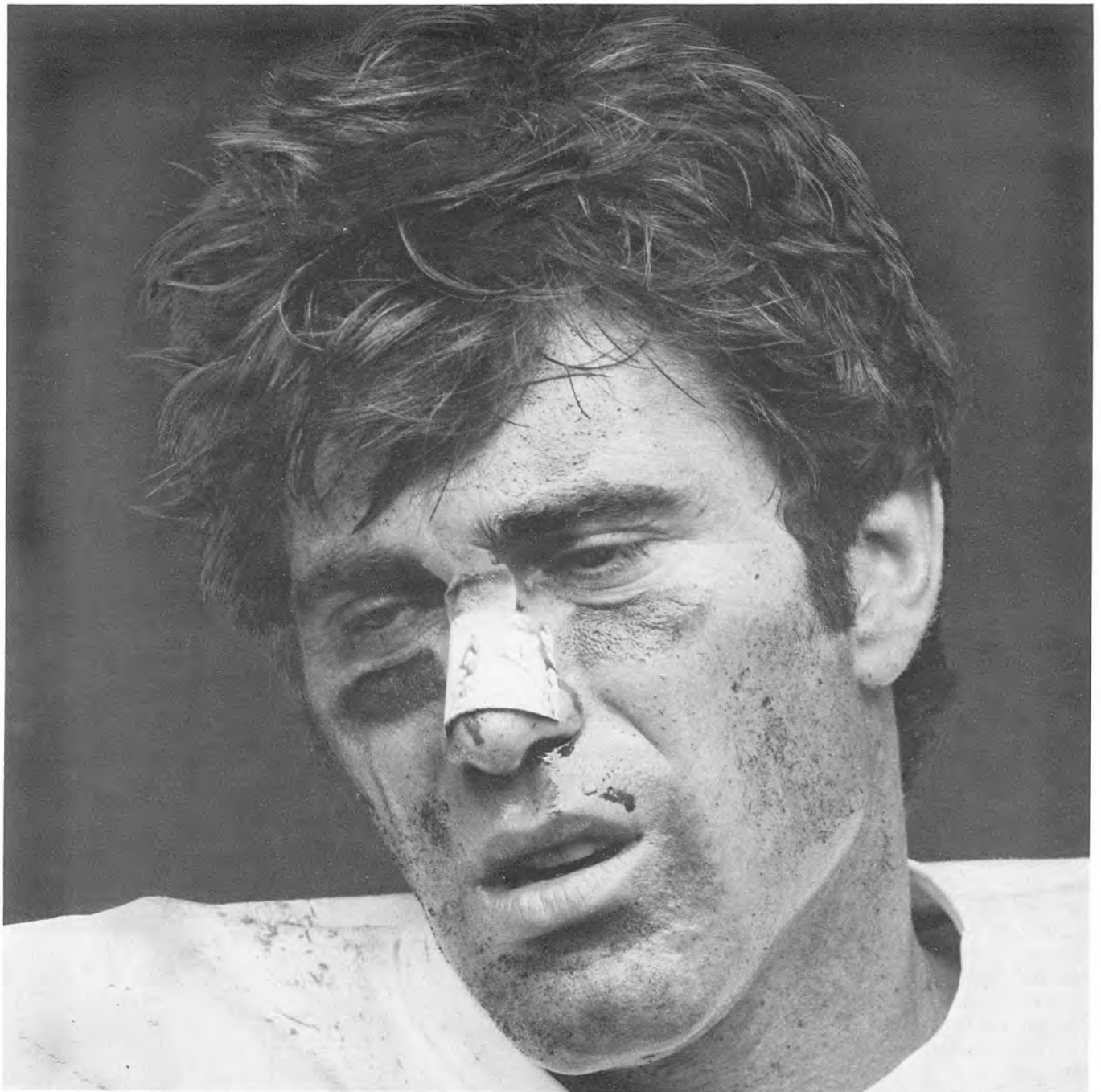
November 14—
St. Louis at Dallas

November 21—
Green Bay at Washington

November 28—
Buffalo at Oakland

December 5—
Baltimore at Miami

December 12—
Dallas at San Francisco



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Control is the name of the game. Ball control on the field. Hair control in the dressing room. Dep originated the most effective system of hair control ever. With a fantastic line of dry styling super-groomers. If you want to look sharp right after *your* game, use Dep for Men.

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PITTSBURGH STEELERS

COACHING STAFF

PLAYERS



Chuck Noll

Head Coach Chuck Noll took his Pittsburgh team into the playoffs for the fifth consecutive time last year, winning the last nine games of 1976 after a 1-4 start. He led the Steelers to back-to-back NFL championships in 1974 and 1975, defeating Minnesota 16-6 in Super Bowl IX and Dallas 21-17 in Super Bowl X. He has compiled a 53-16-1 record over the past five seasons and has gone 65-46-1 since being named Steelers' head coach in 1969. He played guard-linebacker for the Cleveland Browns from 1953-59. He started coaching at the age of 27 (1960), when he was named defensive coach of the Los Angeles (San Diego) Chargers. In 1966 he joined Don Shula's staff at Baltimore as defensive backfield coach and remained with the Colts until 1969.

Background Noll was an all-state star at Benedictine High School in Cleveland and captained the University of Dayton team, playing both tackle and linebacker. He was drafted by the Browns in 1953.

Personal Noll was born in Cleveland on January 5, 1932. He and his wife, Marianne, live in Pittsburgh. They have one son, Chris.

Coaching Staff Bud Carson, defensive coordinator; Dick Hoak, offensive backfield; Tom Moore, receivers; George Perles, defensive line; Dan Radakovich, offensive line; Paul Uram, flexibility coach; Lou Riecke, strength coach; and Woody Widenhofer, line-backers.



12 TERRY BRADSHAW
QB 6-3 215



20 ROCKY BLEIER
RB 5-11 210



23 MIKE WAGNER
S 6-1 200



32 FRANCO HARRIS
RB 6-2 225



43 FRANK LEWIS
WR 6-1 196



45 JIM ALLEN
CB 6-2 194



52 MIKE WEBSTER
C 6-1 250



55 JON KOLB
T 6-2 262



59 JACK HAM
LB 6-1 225



63 ERNIE HOLMES
DT 6-3 260



68 L. C. GREENWOOD
DE 6-6 250



75 JOE GREENE
DT 6-4 275



78 DWIGHT WHITE
DE 6-4 255

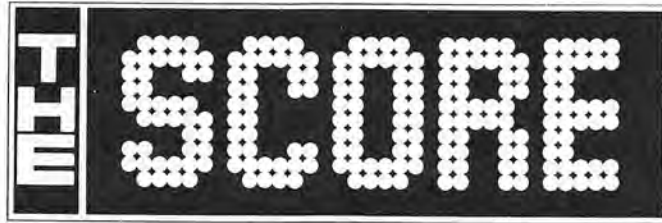


82 JOHN STALLWORTH
WR 6-2 183



88 LYNN SWANN
WR 6-0 180

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PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Chuck Noll offers a simplistic view of how his Pittsburgh Steelers hope to return to the Super Bowl this year.

"We have to avoid getting off to as bad a start as we did a year ago," says Noll, who in 1976 watched the Steelers drop four of their first five then reel off nine wins in succession to make the playoffs for the fifth straight season. Pittsburgh's bid for a third Super Bowl victory was thwarted by Oakland in the AFC championship game.

Noll's 65 victories are a record for a Pittsburgh head coach and as he completes his ninth season he'll break the deadlock he shares with Buddy Parker as the coach with the longest tenure.

One retirement, that of left linebacker Andy Russell, has created a competitive situation for the spot between Loren Toews, Russell's estwhile backup, and Robin Cole, the Steelers' first round draft choice this past spring.

Two integral Steelers defenders are out of camp at the moment. Middle linebacker Jack Lambert and cornerback Mel Blount are the no-shows. Marv Kellum is in Lambert's slot along with Dennis Winston, a fifth-round draftee. Brent Sexton and Wentford Gaines, both of whom have had injury problems in the past, are vying for Blount's position.

There is some change on offense as well. Tight end Larry Brown has been shifted to left tackle. His heir apparent, Bennie Cunningham, has been injured in camp so Randy Grossman has the starting slot at the moment.

The offensive attack, however, remains the same. Terry Bradshaw and Mike Kruczek lead the thrust that includes Franco Harris, Rocky Bleier, Lynn Swann, et al.

Under Noll, the Steelers have had only two losing preseasons. His record, including last week's win over Buffalo, is an impressive 32-15-1. Indicative of the manner in which he and Pittsburgh's personnel staff have directed the Steelers fortunes is the fact every one of the 22 starters in 1977 began his pro career in Pittsburgh as either a draft choice or free agent. Noll's first choice when he came to Pittsburgh in 1969 has been a cornerstone of the club's success, Joe Greene.



Relax, sport!
You're ready for any game plan with these rugged as all outdoors prewashed, 10-ounce denims: quilted vest with convertible zip cowl neck, **\$30**; field flannel workshirt, **\$20**; Western pant, **\$24**. The hat—to wave, toss or shield your eyes with—**\$10**. Sportswear on 3. 274-8136.

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Two Dollar Savings on Chiefs Tickets Top Offers in Amoco Sports Club Playbook

Chiefs fans will find big savings on tickets to the remaining preseason games in the Amoco Sports Club Playbook now being offered by participating Standard Oil dealers.



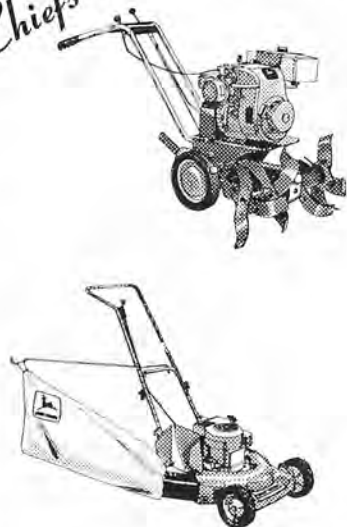
One of the 37 coupons in the playbook is valid for two dollars off for up to six tickets to any or all of the remaining games in the Chiefs preseason schedule.

The Standard Playbook also offers fans savings for many other sporting events. The Royals and Kings are featured, along with money-saving coupons from the NAIA Basketball Tournament, NAIA Track and Field, World Championship Tennis Tournament and other special sporting events.

Several other special attractions add up to big savings for the entire family. Reduced price passports to Worlds of Fun, 25%-off on dinner at Arrowhead Inn, and two-for-the-price-of-one train rides at the Kansas City Zoo are typical of the featured items. Weekend getaway packages at several Kansas City hotel/motel complexes such as Crown Center, will give you substantial savings over regular rates.

The total value of the fan, fun, and food coupons available in the Standard Oil Playbook is well over \$100. Participating Amoco Sports Club dealers are offering the playbook to their customers for \$2.95.

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Kansas City, Missouri



Dodge Ramcharger has got it where it counts.



You might think, "Now there's something I'd really like to do. Get myself a good solid four-wheeler like Ramcharger. Get off the road and have a ball." But, of course, your good ol' common sense speaks up and says, "What are you going to do when you get back home? You can't go four-wheelin' across all the neighbors' lawns."

It's more than a hill climber and swamp fox. Ramcharger can also be a comfortable station wagon with lots of room and soft seats. And its short turning diameter makes tight spots easy to get out of.

It can carry you nicely over paved roads, too. And you can add available options like automatic transmission, automatic speed control, sport road wheels, air conditioning.



Shown is AW100 four-wheel drive.

Ramcharger's a practical way to get where you're going. And when you're ready to leave practicality behind, Ramcharger's got something you're going to like a lot:

Full-time four-wheel drive. With that, you'll never ever have to get in and out to lock and unlock your wheel hubs. See, there really is a practical side to having fun. It's called Dodge Ramcharger.





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Minnesota Vikings
NFC Central Division 11-2-1
Coach: Bud Grant

Age and Experience Put Vikings in Prime Position Again



Rookie Sammy White was a blur most of 1976.

Overview: The Vikings may have lost the Super Bowl, but they haven't lost their tag of invincibility, in spite of encroaching age at some key positions. Minnesota staged a number of great escapes to post an 11-2-1 record in 1976, and its victory over the Rams in the NFC championship game showed that the Vikings frequently win by doing what great teams have to do: taking advantage of every opportunity.

Offense: Fran Tarkenton, the 37-year-old all-time leading passer in the NFL, is back to guide an offense that rolled up 4,859 yards, fourth in the NFC. He threw more passes (412) than anyone except Jim Zorn of Seattle (439) and was the second leading percentage thrower (nearly 62 percent). With an eye on the future, the Vikings used a first-round draft choice to select Rice quarterback Tommy Kramer. The Vikings' primary offensive weapon is Chuck Foreman, the 207-pound halfback who combines power and breakaway speed and remarkable balance. Foreman seems to make the big play whenever it's needed. He ran for 1,155

yards and caught 55 passes for 567 more, accounting for more than 35 percent of Minnesota's total yardage. Before 1976 began, the Vikings' wide receiving situation was uncertain, shaky at best. But when Ahmad Rashad was obtained from Seattle to team with rookie Sammy White, coach Bud Grant knew his worries were over. They combined to grab 104 passes. White caught 51 and displayed an ability to get hit hard and still hold onto the ball. The offense makes much of this happen with great protection from two Pro Bowl players on the right side, tackle Ron Yary and guard Ed White. Mick Tinglehoff returns at center for his sixteenth season. Tackle Steve Riley and guard Charles Goodrum are solid but unspectacular on the left side. Guard Dennis Swilley of Texas A&M was a second round draft choice.

Defense: The Vikings didn't use any of their nine draft picks to take a defensive lineman, which shows great confidence that the aging Purple People Eaters can do the job once again. And it is an imposing lineup, at any age: left end Carl Eller, 35; left tackle Doug Sutherland, 29; right tackle Alan Page, 32; right end Jim Marshall, 39. In the final regular season game of 1976, those four men helped stop Miami seven times inside the 7-yard line in the first quarter. In the NFC title game against the Rams, Los Angeles had a first down at the Vikings' 6. Three plays gained just five yards, and a field goal try was blocked and Bobby Bryant ran the loose ball 90 yards to a Minnesota touchdown. Jeff Siemon is one of the NFL's premier middle linebackers and Matt Blair is an emerging star at left linebacker. Blair was the team's big play leader last year with three blocked kicks, two interceptions, and seven fumble recoveries. The rightside linebacker, Wally Hilgenberg, 35, could be pushed by fourth-year pro Fred McNeill. The Vikings' secondary lacks speed but not savvy. Free safety Paul Krause has 76 interceptions in 13 pro seasons, only three behind Emlen Tunnell's all-time record. Bryant and Nate Wright, who intercepted seven passes in 1976, are the incumbent cornerbacks, while Jeff Wright and Krause, who added three interceptions last year, patrol the safety spots.

Special Teams: The special teams worked like a Swiss watch when it came to making big plays. Minnesota blocked 16 kicks in

1976—seven conversions, six field goals, and three punts. Nate Allen blocked Tom Dempsey's field goal try in the NFC championship game against the Rams. Rookie Leonard Willis handled the punt and kick-off return chores adequately. The punting of Neil Clabo was steady if unspectacular (38.8 average). Fred Cox (19 of 31) was a consistent placekicker from less than 30 yards.

1977: They've been saying that the Vikings are getting old for a long time, yet when Bud Grant's team went to Super Bowl XI it was the fourth time Minnesota had been there, the most by any team. Since 1970, the Vikings have a 75-22-1 record, best in the NFL. And the Vikings will be tough again in 1977.

1976 SCORES	Minn.	Opp.
Sept. 12 at New Orleans	40	9
Sept. 19 LOS ANGELES*	10	10
Sept. 26 at Detroit	10	9
Oct. 4 PITTSBURGH (Monday)	17	6
Oct. 10 CHICAGO	20	19
Oct. 17 NEW YORK GIANTS	24	7
Oct. 24 at Philadelphia	31	12
Oct. 31 at Chicago	13	14
Nov. 7 DETROIT	31	23
Nov. 14 SEATTLE	27	21
Nov. 21 vs. Green Bay (Milwaukee)	17	10
Nov. 29 at San Francisco (Monday)	16	20
Dec. 5 GREEN BAY	20	9
Dec. 11 at Miami (Saturday)	29	7
Won 11 Lost 2 Tied 1	305	176

Divisional Playoff		
Dec. 18 WASHINGTON	35	20
NFC Championship		
Dec. 26 LOS ANGELES	24	13
Super Bowl XI		
Jan. 9 Oakland	14	32

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS						
Rushing	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD	
Chuck Foreman	278	1,155	4.2	46	13	
Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TD	Int.
Fran Tarkenton	412	255	2,961	61.9	17	8
Receiving	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD	
Chuck Foreman	55	567	10.3	411	1	
Scoring	TD	FG	PAT	Pts.		
Fred Cox	0	19-31	32-36	89		
Interceptions	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD	
Nate Wright	7	47	6.7	21	0	

TOP DRAFT CHOICES		
1. Tommy Kramer	QB	Rice
2. Dennis Swilley	G	Texas A&M
3. Tom Hannon	DB	Michigan State
4. Choice to Seattle		
5. Ken Moore	TE	Northern Illinois

STARTING LINEUPS			
Offense		Defense	
28 Ahmad Rashad	WR	81 Carl Eller	LE
78 Steve Riley	LT	69 Doug Sutherland	LT
68 Charles Goodrum	LG	88 Alan Page	RT
53 Mick Tinglehoff	C	70 Jim Marshall	RE
62 Ed White	RG	59 Matt Blair	LLB
73 Ron Yary	RT	50 Jeff Siemon	MLB
83 Stu Voigt	TE	58 Wally Hilgenberg	RLB
85 Sammy White	WR	43 Nate Wright	LCB
10 Fran Tarkenton	QB	20 Bobby Bryant	RCB
33 Brent McClellan	RB	23 Jeff Wright	LS
44 Chuck Foreman	RB	22 Paul Krause	RS
14 Fred Cox	K	12 Neil Clabo	P



New Orleans Saints
NFC Western Division 4-10
Coach: Hank Stram

Saints' Hopes for Improvement Are on Solid Ground



Muncie wears glasses behind his face mask.

Overview: The Saints broke 24 team records under new coach Hank Stram in 1976, and they won four games (twice as many as the year before), proving a team can rebuild while improving its record at the same time.

Offense: Chuck Muncie, a first-round draft choice last year from California, and Tony Galbreath, number two pick from Missouri, made dazzling debuts in their rookie seasons. Muncie, the bespectacled bruiser, rumbled for 659 yards and a 4.4-yard average, caught 31 passes, and showed greater speed than most 220-pounders—and all of this despite playing on a sore ankle most of the season. Galbreath ran for 570 yards and led the team with 54 pass receptions. The quarterback situation is unsettled. Archie Manning missed all of 1976 with tendinitis in his throwing arm. Bobby Douglass and Bobby Scott shared the job in 1976, passing for a combined 2,353 yards. But Manning, the club's quarterback for most of the previous five seasons, could regain his job. Nine different men started on the offensive line

last year. Left tackle Marv Montgomery, obtained from Denver on waivers, replaced Tom Wickert; Terry Stieve divided playing time with Kurt Schumacher at left guard, and also filled in for Emanuel Zanders at right guard. Center John Hill, a starter in all 14 games last year, is solid and underrated. Two giant-sized fifth-round draft choices—288-pound Dave Lafary of Purdue and 270-pound Dave Hubbard of Brigham Young—are candidates for tackle spots. The Saints have speed and quickness at one wide receiver spot, where Olympic sprinter Larry Burton and trackman Tinker Owens alternate. The other wide receiver, Don Herrmann, led the team with 34 receptions in 1976. The Saints are hopeful that Joel Parker, who caught 41 passes in 1974, will come back from knee surgery after missing an entire season. Henry Childs, who grabbed 26 passes last year, will be the starting tight end.

Defense: Linebacking is a Saints' strength. Joe Federspiel, the man in the middle, directs a defense that recorded a club record 39 sacks last year. Federspiel led the team with 122 tackles, 87 of them unassisted. Federspiel's linebacking mate on the left side, Jim Merlo, was voted the club's co-most valuable player (with Galbreath); Merlo was in on 115 tackles. And Greg Westbrook, the other linebacker, showed great potential in his second pro season. The likely front four alignment—from left to right, Bob Pollard, Elex Price, Derland Moore, and Steve Baumgartner—is a good one. Pollard missed the last half of the 1976 season following knee surgery; his replacement, Andy Dorris, showed solid skills. Other prime candidates here are first-round draft choice Joe Campbell of Maryland, an end, and second-round selection Mike Fultz of Nebraska, a tackle. The Saints intercepted just 12 passes in 1976 so it wouldn't surprise many people if there were a few changes in the secondary. The incumbents are Ernie Jackson and Maurice Spencer on the corners and Chuck Crist and Tom Myers at the safeties. Third-round draft choice Bob Watts was a linebacker at Boston College, but could be switched to safety. Craig Cassady, son of former all-pro Howard (Hopalong) Cassady, is another candidate for a safety spot.

Special Teams: Punter Tom Blanchard retired. The Saints signed Oklahoma State

punter Cliff Parsley, who averaged 42.7 yards per punt in college. Placekicker Rich Szaro was consistent, hitting 18 of 23 field goals. But he will have competition, too, in Raphael Septien, who kicked nine over 50 yards in three seasons at Southwest Louisiana. Galbreath did double duty as a return man on kickoffs. Clarence Chapman and Leon McQuay could be tried as punt and kickoff return men. The punt and kickoff coverage teams had some problems last year, giving up 11.6 yards per punt return, the third poorest mark in the NFL, and 25.2 yards on kickoffs, highest mark in the league.

1977: The Saints showed they can play solid football. Their losses came by an average of only 6.6 points. Things look better for Stram with his strong running game and good linebackers, but Los Angeles and San Francisco are tough hurdles to overcome in the NFC West.

1976 SCORES	Balt.	Opp.
Sept. 12 MINNESOTA	9	40
Sept. 19 DALLAS	6	24
Sept. 26 at Kansas City	27	17
Oct. 3 HOUSTON	26	31
Oct. 10 ATLANTA	30	0
Oct. 17 at San Francisco	3	33
Oct. 24 LOS ANGELES	10	16
Oct. 31 at Atlanta	20	23
Nov. 7 vs. Green Bay (Milwaukee)	27	32
Nov. 14 DETROIT	17	16
Nov. 21 at Seattle	51	27
Nov. 28 at Los Angeles	14	33
Dec. 5 at New England	6	27
Dec. 12 at SAN FRANCISCO	7	27
Won 4 Lost 10	253	346

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS					
Rushing	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Chuck Muncie	148	652	4.4	51	2
Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TD Int.
Bobby Douglass	212	103	1,288	48.6	4 8
Receiving	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Tony Galbreath	54	420	7.8	35	1
Scoring	TD	FG	PAT	Pts.	
Rich Szaro	0	18-33	25-29	79	
Interceptions	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Jim Merlo	4	142	35.5	83	2

TOP DRAFT CHOICES			
1. Joe Campbell	DE		Maryland
2. Mike Fultz	DT		Nebraska
3. Bob Watts	LB		Boston College
4. Choice to Los Angeles			
5. Dave Lafary	T		Purdue
Dave Hubbard	T		Brigham Young
			(from Baltimore)

STARTING LINEUPS			
Offense		Defense	
80 Larry Burton	WR	82 Bob Pollard	LE
77 Marv Montgomery	LT	75 Elex Price	LT
68 Terry Stieve	LG	74 Derland Moore	RT
62 John Hill	C	63 Steve Baumgartner	RE
79 Emanuel Zanders	RG	57 Jim Merlo	LLB
76 Don Morrison	RT	58 Joe Federspiel	MLB
85 Henry Childs	TE	60 Greg Westbrook	RLB
87 Don Herrmann	WR	30 Ernie Jackson	LCB
10 Bobby Douglass	QB	29 Maurice Spencer	RCB
42 Chuck Muncie	RB	44 Chuck Crist	LS
34 Tony Galbreath	RB	37 Tom Myers	RS
15 Rich Szaro	K	16 Tom Blanchard	P

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New York Giants
NFC Eastern Division 3-11
Coach: John McVay

McVay Plans to Pick Up Where '76 Giants Left Off



Csonka (39) led Giants in touchdowns.

Overview: From the eighth game of last year, the New York Giants were able to hold their heads up. When John McVay replaced Bill Arnsparger as Coach, the Giants were 0-7. McVay made a few changes, then won three of the remaining seven. Two of the losses, to Denver and St. Louis, were by a total of four points. There also was a two-point loss at Washington in the 1976 opener.

Offense: Nine of the 13 choices the Giants made in the draft went for offensive players, including number two choice Johnny Perkins, a wide receiver from Abilene Christian who could be stern opposition for the other wide receivers on the club, Ed Marshall, Jim Robinson, Roger Wallace, Ray Rhodes, and Walker Gillette. The quarterback spot is open, with Dennis Shaw the preseason favorite for the job. Shaw was a starter at Buffalo until Joe Ferguson emerged. Steve Ramsey, obtained from Denver in a one-for-one swap with the Giants for Craig Morton, was a starter with the Broncos, and will challenge Shaw. So will untested Jerry Golsteyn, who made a big impression in

training camp a year ago, but then was injured. Randy Dean of Northwestern, a draft choice, also will vie for a spot on the team. McVay's offensive line theory is to find the best man for each position regardless of what each man is labeled. Thus he'll be able to choose the guards and tackles from Al Simpson, Tom Mullen, John Hicks, Doug Van Horn, Ron Mikolajczyk, and others who played on the line last year. Van Horn and Hicks started every game at tackle and guard, respectively, on the right side for the Giants. But the juggling act on the left side was something to behold. Mikolajczyk, Simpson, and Bill Ellenbogen all were part-time starters at left guard. Mike Gibbons saw time at left tackle, after Mullen started the first 12 games. At center, Karl Chandler and Ralph Hill alternated. Two big tackles were taken in the player draft. Fourth-round draft choice Mike Vaughan of Oklahoma, a 275-pounder, and Memphis State's Bob Jordan, taken on the sixth round, also will be given a chance. The tight end, Bob Tucker, is an excellent receiver and blocker. The Giants hope Larry Csonka rebounds from knee surgery. The former Miami Dolphin star came back to the NFL after the collapse of the World Football League, but his knee problems limited his rushing total to 569 yards, second on the team to dependable Doug Kotar's 731. Marsh White, a 220-pounder, backed up Csonka, and Gordon Bell, the 180-pound scatback, was Kotar's reserve.

Defense: Giants' opponents averaged 157.4 yards a game rushing last year, and the club made strides to reduce that figure when they went after quick, powerful Gary Jeter of USC on the first round of the player draft. Jeter helps solidify a line that already is one of the team's strengths. The incumbent ends are Jack Gregory and George Martin, who led the team in quarterback sacks; the tackles are John Mendenhall and Troy Archer. The linebackers also were a positive element for the Giants in 1976. Big Brad Van Pelt played the left side, quick Brian Kelley the right, and Harry Carson won the middle linebacker spot with surprising dependability for a rookie. Otis Rodgers, a draft choice from Iowa State, is a promising linebacker. Cornerbacks Bobby Brooks and Henry Stuckey both went out early in 1976 with knee injuries, and Bill Bryant and Jim Steinke took over. Steinke may return to free

safety, with Clyde Powers on the other side. Veteran safety Rick Volk is a dependable backup.

Special Teams: Joe Danelo was the place-kicker and made only 8 of 21 field goals, four of them in a 12-9 surprise of Washington. Dave Jennings had a fine 41.3 punting average. The kick returner was Jim Robinson, but his 4.4 yard average on punt returns and 22.2 average on kickoff returns showed little game-breaking ability. In hopes of improving that department, the Giants have named Gordon Bell as the number one returner as of the first day of training camp, and they hope his speed should improve the return situation.

1977: The Giants figure to improve greatly because of the coaching stability, the return of all eight of those who wound up 1976 on the injured list, plus the addition of a flock of rookies headed by the sensational Jeter.

1976 SCORES	N.O.	Opp.
Sept. 12 at Washington	17	19
Sept. 19 at Philadelphia	7	20
Sept. 26 at Los Angeles	10	24
Oct. 3 at St. Louis	21	27
Oct. 10 DALLAS	14	24
Oct. 17 at Minnesota	7	24
Oct. 24 PITTSBURGH	0	27
Oct. 31 PHILADELPHIA	0	10
Nov. 7 at Dallas	3	9
Nov. 14 WASHINGTON	12	9
Nov. 21 at Denver	13	14
Nov. 28 SEATTLE	28	16
Dec. 5 DETROIT	24	10
Dec. 12 ST. LOUIS	14	17
Won 3 Lost 11	170	250

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Rushing	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Doug Kotar	185	731	4.0	24	3
Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TD
Craig Morton	284	153	1,865	53.9	9
Receiving	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Bob Tucker	42	498	11.9	39	1
Scoring	TD	FG	PAT	Pts.	
Joe Danelo	0	8-21	20-21	44	
Interceptions	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Rick Volk	2	14	7.0	11	0

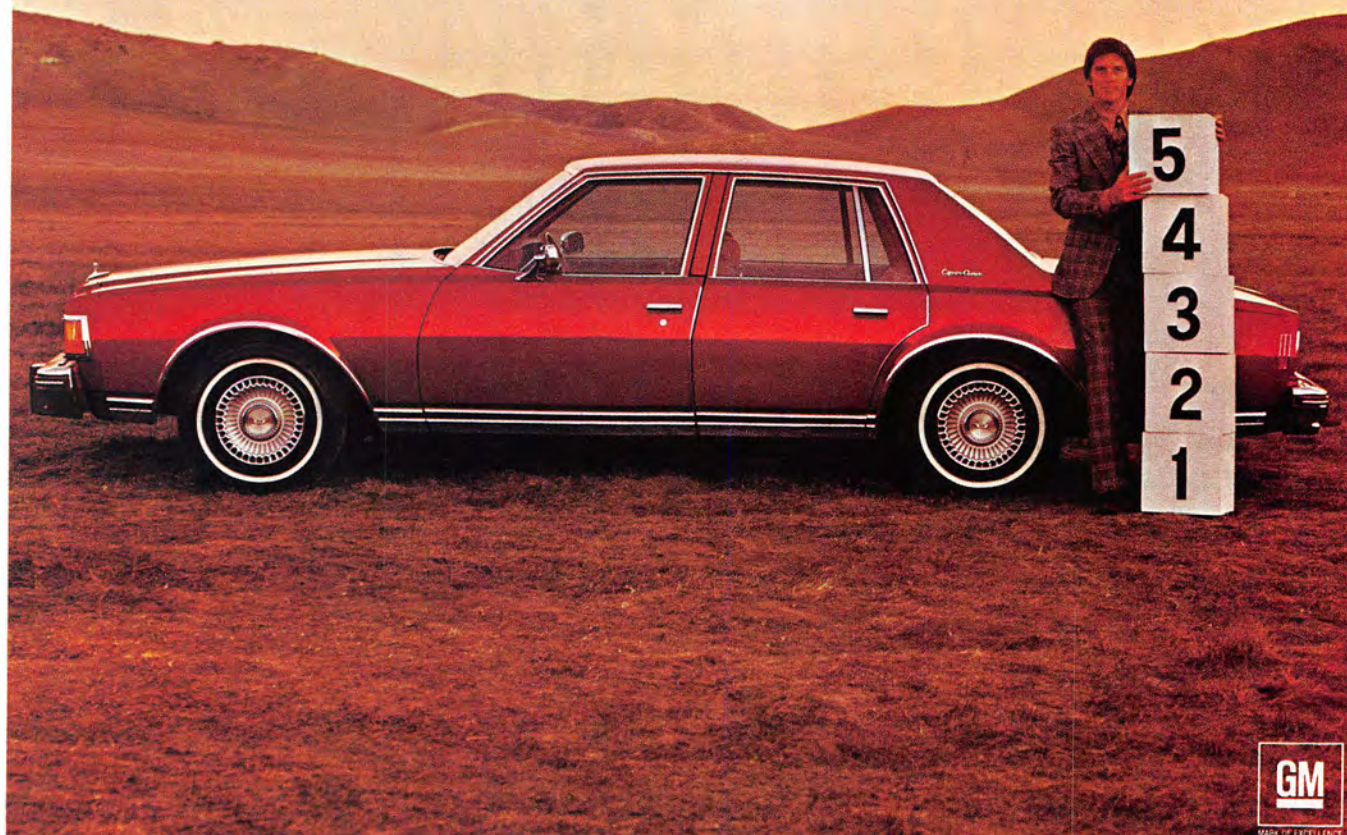
TOP DRAFT CHOICES

1. Gary Jeter	DE	USC
2. Johnny Perkins	WR	Abilene Christian
3. Choice to Chicago		
4. Mike Vaughan	T	Oklahoma
5. Randy Dean	QB	Northwestern

STARTING LINEUPS

Offense		Defense	
89 Ed Marshall	WR	75 George Martin	LE
73 Tom Mullen	LT	64 John Mendenhall	LT
79 Al Simpson	LG	77 Troy Archer	RT
61 Karl Chandler	C	81 Jack Gregory	RE
74 John Hicks	RG	10 Brad Van Pelt	LLB
63 Doug Van Horn	RT	53 Harry Carson	MLB
38 Bob Tucker	TE	55 Brian Kelley	RLB
82 Ray Rhodes	WR	21 Bill Bryant	LCB
9 Dennis Shaw	QB	37 Bobby Brooks	RCB
44 Doug Kotar	RB	29 Clyde Powers	LS
39 Larry Csonka	RB	20 Jim Stienke	RS
18 Joe Danelo	K	13 Dave Jennings	P

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Philadelphia Eagles
NFC Eastern Division 4-10
Coach: Dick Vermeil

Upgrading Is Still Vermeil's Top Priority With Eagles



Sullivan has four 100-yard games in his career.

Overview: In his first year as coach of the Eagles, Dick Vermeil promised to give every player he inherited a chance to prove his value. At the end of the season, 39 of the 43 players on the team had been with the Eagles when the season started. The Eagles lived by that philosophy for one year, but now Vermeil says, "This year we will not pass up anyone who we think might be a step better than someone we're playing with." Vermeil wasn't displeased with his 1976 team, even though it won just four games. But the new faces could make a major difference and improve the record.

Offense: The biggest change may come at quarterback. The trade that brought Ron Jaworski from the Los Angeles Rams to the Eagles for tight end Charles Young could turn the Eagles around. Jaworski is a holler guy, a leader who can set up quickly and pass with accuracy. The return of Roman Gabriel, who had missed almost an entire season with a knee injury, was pleasing to Vermeil. Gabriel needs just 571 yards to reach 30,000 in his career, which also started with the

Rams. Mike Hogan and Tom Sullivan were the running backs at the end of last year. They finished with 561 and 399 yards, respectively, and both averaged more than four yards a carry. Hogan was a rookie in 1976, and Vermeil is looking for bigger things from him. James McAlister, a former running back, will be tried as a wide receiver this year. The offensive line was vastly improved last year. Tackle Stan Walters and guard Jerry Sisemore were solid performers. Fourth-year pro Guy Morriss, the center, had his best season. Tackle Ed George and guard Wade Key also were regulars, but third-year pro Jeff Bleamer figures to push both men. Guard Tommy Luken, who was on the injured reserve list last year, also is back. The wide receivers could be the key to the season for the Eagles. Harold Carmichael is one of the superb pass catchers in the NFL; in the past four seasons he has caught 222 passes and his 42 receptions last year ranked seventh in the NFC. He also showed good blocking skills. Charlie Smith, who Vermeil feels has great potential, caught 27 passes. Keith Krepfle will take over at tight end. Vermeil said he would have been concerned about the loss of a tight end the quality of Young had Krepfle not been an Eagle. He's a good receiver and blocker.

Defense: Only Seattle gave up more yards than the Eagles last year in the NFC, but Vermeil feels his experiment of sticking with the same people all of last year could be beneficial because the players now know his system. Left tackle Manny Sistrunk was the Eagles' top defensive lineman, and he'll start next to Carl Hairston at end, who played well for a rookie last year. Will Wynn started every game at right end last season, but three men shared duty at right tackle, and Pete Lazetich should help. The most solid spot on the team is linebacker. In the middle, veteran Bill Bergey was voted as the top linebacker in the NFC last year by NFL players. The Eagles, realizing the defense needed shoring up, hired a new defensive coordinator, Marion Campbell, and a new secondary coach, Fred Bruney. Vermeil additionally has said he may install a three-four defensive alignment, to take advantage of the abundance of excellent linebackers he's got. "Right now it looks like we will be in that defense the biggest percentage of the time," said Vermeil. "Bergey had maybe the best year he's ever had and

much more will be expected of him on the field this year because of the new defensive system." He won't be alone. Bergey is flanked by Frank LeMaster on the left and John Bunting on the right. The secondary must improve. Cornerbacks John Outlaw and Al Clark and safeties Randy Logan and Bill Bradley figure to be tested by the Eagles' first two draft picks—on the fifth and sixth rounds—Skip Sharp of Kansas and Kevin Russell of Tennessee State. Artimus Parker, who started only one game, also is a possibility.

Special Teams: Horst Muhlmann hit every field goal he tried inside the 40. Spike Jones's punting average was 36.6, but he put 23 punts down inside the opponents 20. Larry Marshall handled kicks adequately.

1977: The Eagles will be better, no doubt. But upgrading dramatically in the NFC East—with teams such as St. Louis, Dallas, and Washington—won't be easy.

1976 SCORES	Phil.	Opp.
Sept. 12 at Dallas	7	27
Sept. 19 NEW YORK GIANTS	20	7
Sept. 27 WASHINGTON (Monday)	17	20
Oct. 3 at Atlanta	14	13
Oct. 10 at St. Louis	14	33
Oct. 17 at Green Bay	13	28
Oct. 24 MINNESOTA	12	31
Oct. 31 at New York Giants	10	0
Nov. 7 ST. LOUIS	14	17
Nov. 14 at Cleveland	3	24
Nov. 21 OAKLAND	7	26
Nov. 28 at Washington	0	24
Dec. 5 DALLAS	7	26
Dec. 12 SEATTLE	27	10
Won 4 Lost 10	165	286

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Rushing	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Mike Hogan	123	561	4.6	32	0
Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TD
Mike Boryla	246	123	1,247	50.0	9
Receiving	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Harold Carmichael	42	503	12.0	24	5
Scoring	TD	FG	PAT	Pts.	
Horst Muhlmann	0	11-16	18-19	51	
Interceptions	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Bill Bradley	2	63	31.5	52	0

TOP DRAFT CHOICES

1. Choice to Cincinnati		
2. Choice to Oakland		
3. Choice to Dallas		
4. Choice to Kansas City		
5. Skip Sharp	DB	Kansas

STARTING LINEUPS

Offense		Defense	
17 Harold Carmichael	WR	78 Carl Hairston	LE
75 Stan Walters	LT	79 Manny Sistrunk	LT
72 Wade Key	LG	73 Pete Lazetich	RT
50 Guy Morriss	C	71 Will Wynn	RE
76 Jerry Sisemore	RG	55 Frank LeMaster	LLB
64 Ed George	RT	66 Bill Bergey	MLB
84 Keith Krepfle	TE	95 John Bunting	RLB
85 Charles Smith	WR	20 John Outlaw	LCB
7 Ron Jaworski	QB	21 Al Clark	RCB
25 Tom Sullivan	RB	41 Randy Logan	LS
35 Mike Hogan	RB	28 Bill Bradley	RS
16 Horst Muhlmann	K	6 Spike Jones	P



St. Louis Cardinals
NFC Eastern Division 10-4
Coach: Don Coryell

Cardinals Tiring of Life at the Threshold



Jim Otis, at 225 pounds, rarely uses finesse.

Overview: Don Coryell came to the NFL with a reputation as a "big play" coach at San Diego State. In 1976 his St. Louis Cardinals continued Coryell's tradition with one of the most devastating offenses in the league, one that produced 366.9 yards per game (only Oakland, 370.7, averaged more). The Cardinals rebounded from an early season slip against San Diego (43-24) and played well. Still, two defeats to Washington, 20-10 in the mud of RFK Stadium and 16-10 in St. Louis, made the Cardinals the first NFC team to go 10-4 and not make the playoffs. It was an incongruous season for Coryell, the last-minute magician who wins almost all the close ones.

Offense: Jim Hart's cool-hand manner produced 218 pass completions in 388 attempts for 2,946 yards (third best in the NFL) and 18 touchdowns. Hart is just as good as ever, but as insurance the Cardinals chose 6-foot 2-inch quarterback Steve Pisarkiewicz of Missouri on the first round of the draft. The sudden development of Ike Harris as a pass receiver helped increase Hart's statistics.

Harris, a second-year pro from Iowa State, caught 15 passes as a 1975 rookie but 52 last year to lead the team. That took a lot of the double-teaming pressure off speedster Mel Gray, who has traditionally been Hart's favorite target. With Terry Metcalf injured for part of the season, Jim Otis carried 233 times (third highest in the club's history) for 891 yards. Metcalf missed only two games and remained a feared runner and receiver. The reserves, Steve Jones and Wayne Morris, are solid journeymen, and running back George Franklin of Texas A&I was drafted on the second round. Hart was sacked only 17 times last year. One reason was his fast delivery; another was great protection from a superior and still-developing offensive line. The right side of the line, the one the Cardinals like to run to most, is manned by Conrad Dobler and Dan Dierdorf, two Pro Bowl selections. The left side, also high quality, has Roger Finnie and Bob Young. Another Pro Bowler, Tom Banks, is the center. The Cardinals were fortunate that the injuries that hit their ball-handling stars were minor. And they were further fortunate that none of the linemen, including top tight end J.V. Cain, sustained an injury which forced them to miss games. Finnie, Young, Banks, Dobler, Dierdorf, and Cain started every game. Otis, meanwhile, had to give way in the fifth week to Jones; Gray was injured on and off, and Pat Tilley gave him some rest; Tilley also spelled Harris when he was hurt, as did Jackie Smith.

Defense: The Cardinals gave up 292 yards a game last year, so a few changes are likely. First, Norm Thompson, who had played out his option, was signed by Baltimore. Then the Cardinals obtained Perry Smith from Green Bay; he and Lee Nelson will vie for that job. Roger Wehrli, the club interception leader with four, is the other cornerback. The Cardinals are pleased with Ken Reaves and Mike Sensibaugh at safety, and Jeff Sevenson as backup. The defensive line is back intact after helping the team amass 31 quarterback sacks. Bob Bell and John Zook are two quick 250-pound ends. Charlie Davis and Mike Dawson provide good inside pressure. Ron Yankowski will fight for an end spot. Larry Stallings has retired, so his linebacking spot will go to Al Beauchamp unless any of three draft choices—Kurt Allerman of Penn State, Andy Spiva of

Tennessee, or Eric Williams of USC—can challenge. Tim Kearney and Mark Arneson are the other linebackers. Reaves and Sensibaugh started every game last year, as did Wehrli. Nelson started just two when Thompson was out.

Special Teams: Metcalf is still a potent punt and kickoff returner. He balked at such extra duty early last season, but still wound up averaging 11.1 on punts. The coaches hope Terry Joyce's 36.4-yard punting average improves. Jim Bakken was one of the finest field goal kickers in the league, hitting 20 of 27 field goals last year. He also made 33 of 35 extra points.

1977: St. Louis was just a shade away from a playoff last year, and all the same offensive people who made the breathtaking plays of 1976 are back. The Cardinals will contend again.

1976 SCORES		St.L.	Opp.
Sept. 12 at Seattle		30	24
Sept. 19 GREEN BAY		29	0
Sept. 26 at San Diego		24	43
Oct. 3 NEW YORK GIANTS		27	21
Oct. 10 PHILADELPHIA		33	14
Oct. 17 DALLAS		21	17
Oct. 25 at Washington (Monday)		10	20
Oct. 31 SAN FRANCISCO		23	20
Nov. 7 at Philadelphia		17	14
Nov. 14 at Los Angeles		30	28
Nov. 21 WASHINGTON		10	16
Nov. 25 at Dallas (Thanksgiving)		14	19
Dec. 4 BALTIMORE (Saturday)		24	17
Dec. 12 at New York Giants		17	14
Won 10	Lost 4	309	267

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS							
Rushing	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD		
Jim Otis	233	891	3.8	23	2		
Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TD	Int.	
Jim Hart	388	218	2,946	56.2	18	13	
Receiving	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD		
Ike Harris	52	782	15.0	40	1		
Scoring	TD	FG	PAT	Pts.			
Jim Bakken	0	20-27	33-35	93			
Interceptions	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD		
Norm Thompson	4	83	20.8	38	0		

TOP DRAFT CHOICES			
1. Steve Pisarkiewicz	QB		Missouri
from Washington			
Choice to Atlanta			
2. George Franklin	RB		Texas A&I
3. Kurt Allerman	LB		Penn State
4. Choice to Cincinnati			
5. Ernest Lee	DT		Texas
Andy Spiva	LB		Tennessee
from New England			

STARTING LINEUPS			
Offense		Defense	
85 Mel Gray	WR	79 Bob Bell	LE
60 Roger Finnie	LT	76 Charlie Davis	LT
64 Bob Young	LG	73 Mike Dawson	RT
54 Tom Banks	C	63 John Zook	RE
66 Conrad Dobler	RG	58 Al Beauchamp	LLB
72 Dan Dierdorf	RT	56 Tim Kearney	MLB
88 J. V. Cain	TE	57 Mark Arneson	RLB
84 Ike Harris	WR	38 Lee Nelson	LCB
17 Jim Hart	QB	22 Roger Wehrli	RCB
21 Terry Metcalf	RB	36 Ken Reaves	LS
35 Jim Otis	RB	20 Mike Sensibaugh	RS
25 Jim Bakken	K	87 Terry Joyce	P

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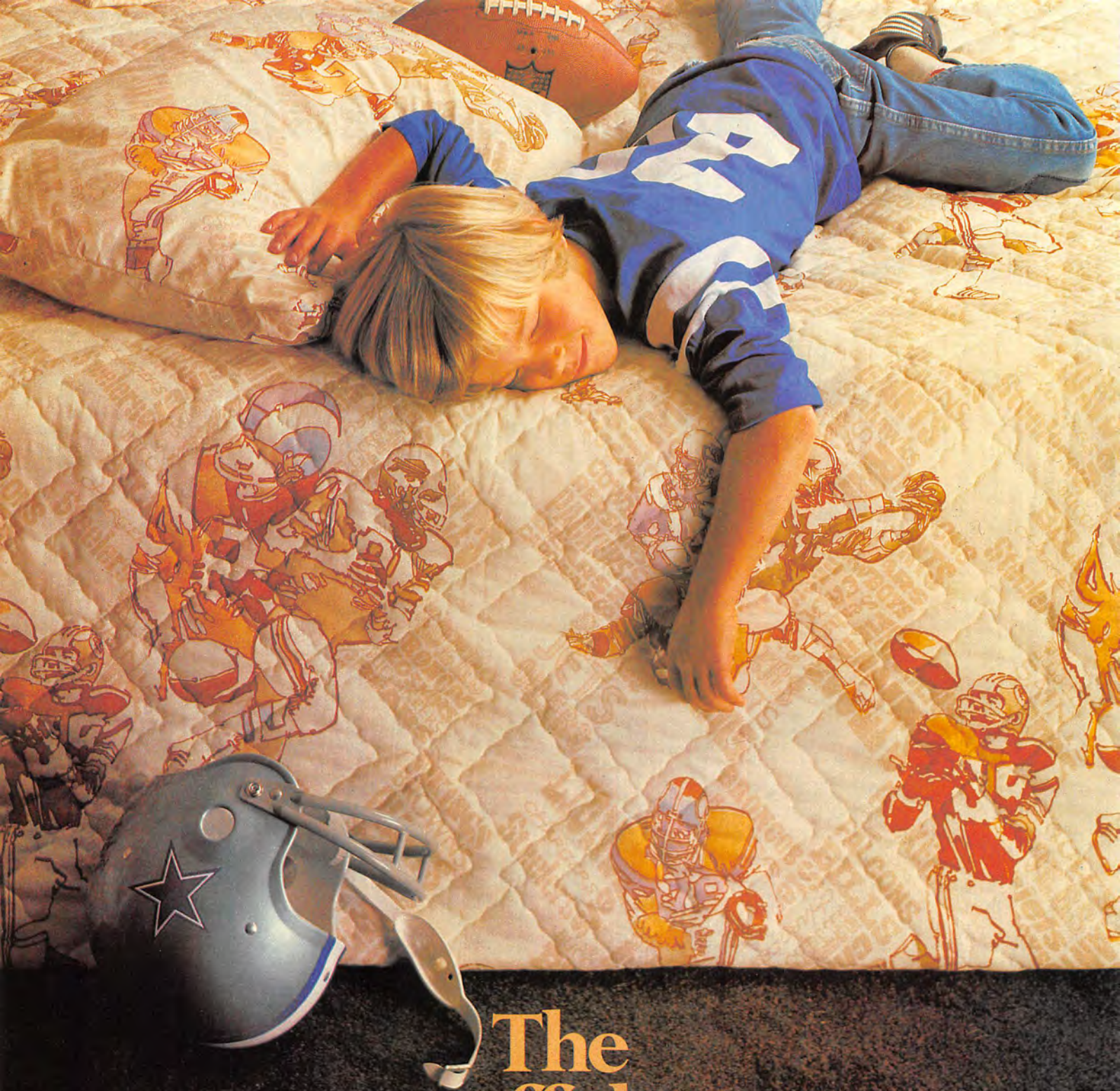
Above, Peter Innis, Fram V.P. - Marketing, presents the Fram Trophy to Kyle Rote, Jr., 1974, 1976 and 1977 Men's Superstar winner.

Right, Anne Henning, 1976 and 1977 Women's Superstar winner, waves the Fram Trophy in victory.



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San Francisco 49ers
NFC Western Division 8-6
Coach: Ken Meyer

New 49ers' Ownership Seeks Fortune Via "The Gold Rush"



Del Williams's 1,203 yards was third in NFL.

Overview: At one point last year, the 49ers were 6-1 and appeared headed for a miraculous rebound from a 5-9 season in 1975. Then bad luck and four close defeats dropped the 49ers to 8-6 at season's end. Monte Clark, the head coach of that comeback team, is no longer with the club. His replacement, Ken Meyer, had been the Los Angeles Rams' offensive coordinator. He retained Clark's staff of assistants.

Offense: The 49ers have the makings of an awesome running game with four-year pros Delvin Williams and Wilbur Jackson. Both have power and speed, but Williams showed exceptional talents last year with 1,203 yards and a 4.9-yard average, the highest of any regular in the NFC. With Jackson gaining 792 yards, the tandem was just five yards shy of a total 2,000. Jackson added to the attack by catching a team-leading 33 passes. Kermit Johnson is an able backup runner. The wide receivers last year were Gene Washington, Jim Lash, and Steve Rivera, but the 49ers were hurt when sprinter Willie McGee, who came to San Francisco

from Tampa Bay in a trade for quarterback Steve Spurrier, broke a leg in the fifth game. McGee, a legitimate world-class sprinter, could reclaim a starting job. Gene Washington caught 33 passes last year. Another player who will make a strong bid for a starting spot is the club's top draft choice (third round), Elmo Boyd of Eastern Kentucky, a high-quality athlete with great speed (4.5 for the 40) and strength. The quarterback spot will be filled by a healthy (hopefully) Jim Plunkett. A shoulder injury hampered his passing last year, but an off-season of rest and recuperation reportedly has healed the damage. Scott Bull and Marty Domres are Plunkett's backups. The 49ers' quarterbacks were sacked 34 times last year; some of the problems in the offensive line were the result of injuries. Steve Lawson at guard and Jean Barrett at tackle started every game on the left side, and Randy Cross and John Watson split time at center. Watson and Andy Maurer alternated at the right guard spot, with Keith Fahnhorst playing most of the year at right tackle. All of them are back healthy this year, as is guard Woody Peoples, who was injured all of last year, and they will get some assistance from tight end Tom Mitchell, a 230-pound blocking specialist who caught 20 passes last year.

Defense: They're calling the 49ers' front four "The Gold Rush" after what it did in 1976. Marauding in enemy backfields, the 49ers led the league in quarterback sacks with 61, only six short of the NFL record (67 by the 1967 Oakland Raiders). The front line of left end Tommy Hart, tackles Jimmy Webb and Cleveland Elam, and right end Cedrick Hardman was helped later in the year by Tony Cline, who was acquired from Oakland. Hardman, who broke an ankle late in the season, will get his job back this fall; Cline will be the backup behind both Hart and Hardman. The 49ers' league-leading sack total produced 573 yards lost. That's an average of 41 yards per game the opponents went in the wrong direction. Hart, the 250-pound perennial all-pro, had 16 sacks himself. The defense gave up just 127 yards a game rushing in 1976, and three fierce linebackers—Skip Vanderbundt, Frank Nunley, and Dave Washington—had a lot to do with that. Nunley will try to come back from his third knee operation. Ed Bradley, acquired from Seattle, is a potential starter at middle line-

backer. Cornerback Jimmy Johnson retired after 16 sensational seasons, but the 49ers feel second-year pro Eddie Lewis can step in adequately. Bruce Taylor is the other cornerback, with Mel Phillips and Ralph McGill at safeties. A fourth-round draft choice, Stan Black of Mississippi State, is a candidate for a spot in the backfield.

Special Teams: Kermit Johnson's 28.4-yard kickoff return average, and McGill's 10.3-yard punt return average were among the NFL's best. Tom Wittum's punts averaged 40.9 yards. Steve Mike-Mayer hit 16 of 28 field goals and showed good range but was erratic. Mike-Mayer may get a challenge from ninth-round draft pick David Posey of Florida.

1977: With a potent ground game, a healthy Jim Plunkett, pass receiving potential, and a stout defense, the 49ers could challenge the Rams' supremacy in the NFC West.

1976 SCORES		S.F.	Opp.
Sept. 12 at Green Bay		26	14
Sept. 19 CHICAGO		12	19
Sept. 26 at Seattle		37	21
Oct. 3 NEW YORK JETS		17	6
Oct. 11 at Los Angeles (Monday)		16	0
Oct. 17 NEW ORLEANS		33	3
Oct. 23 ATLANTA (Saturday)		15	0
Oct. 31 at St. Louis		20	23
Nov. 7 WASHINGTON		21	24
Nov. 14 at Atlanta		16	21
Nov. 21 LOS ANGELES		3	23
Nov. 29 MINNESOTA (Monday)		20	16
Dec. 5 at San Diego		7	13
Dec. 12 at New Orleans		27	7
Won 8	Lost 6	270	190

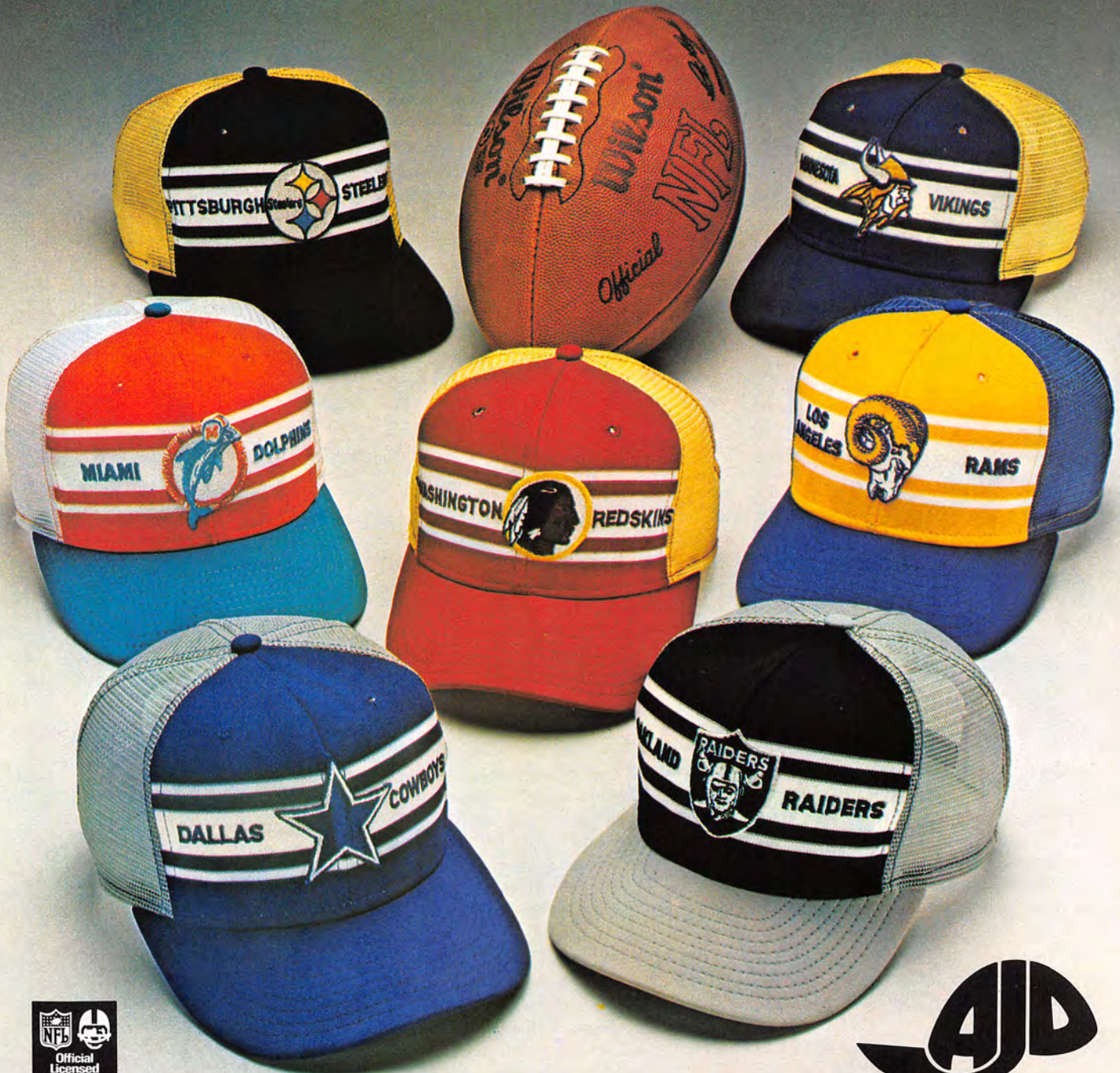
INDIVIDUAL LEADERS						
Rushing	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD	
Delvin Williams	248	1,203	4.9	80t	9	
Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TD	Int.
Jim Plunkett	243	126	1,592	51.9	13	16
Receiving	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD	
Wilbur Jackson	34	344	10.1	32	1	
Scoring	TD	FG	PAT	Pts.		
Steve Mike-Mayer	0	16-28	26-30	74		
Interceptions	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD	
Bruce Rhodes	3	42	14.0	30	0	

TOP DRAFT CHOICES			
1. Choice to New England			
2. Choice to New England			
3. Elmer Boyd	WR	Eastern Kentucky	
from Houston			
Choice to New York Jets			
4. Stan Black	DB	Mississippi State	
5. Choice to Buffalo			

STARTING LINEUPS			
Offense		Defense	
18 Gene Washington	WR	53 Tommy Hart	LE
77 Jean Barrett	LT	74 Jimmy Webb	LT
65 Steve Lawson	LG	72 Cleveland Elam	RT
67 John Watson	C	86 Cedrick Hardman	RE
61 Andy Maurer	RG	52 Skip Vanderbundt	LLB
71 Keith Fahnhorst	RT	57 Frank Nunley	MLB
84 Tom Mitchell	TE	50 Dave Washington	RLB
87 Jim Lash	WR	22 Eddie Lewis	LCB
16 Jim Plunkett	QB	44 Bruce Taylor	RCB
24 Delvin Williams	RB	32 Mel Phillips	LS
40 Wilbur Jackson	RB	49 Ralph McGill	RS
10 Steve Mike-Mayer	K	13 Tom Wittum	P

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Tampa Bay Buccaneers
NFC Central Division 0-14
Coach: John McKay

The Hard Luck Bucs: Constructing a New Trojan Horse?



Relying on Trojans, McKay chose Ricky Bell.

Overview: Tampa Bay led the league in 1976 in losses (14), players on the injured reserve list (17), and youth (average age 24 years per man). But without losing his wry sense of humor, coach John McKay knew things would have to get better in 1977. The improvement began with the talent source McKay knew best—the University of Southern California.

Offense: Anthony Davis, a USC tailback, bought up his contract with Toronto of the Canadian Football League last fall to rejoin McKay. Then McKay made Ricky Bell the number one selection in the NFL draft. With Davis at tailback and Bell at fullback, the Buccaneers figure to put some points on the board. The main question mark is at quarterback, where the Buccaneers have five candidates. Tampa Bay waived last year's starter, Steve Spurrier, obtained Gary Huff from Chicago, and plan to take a close look at Huff, Parnell Dickinson, Scott Gardner, David Jaynes, and rookie Randy Hedberg of Minot State. Dickinson played well in spots last year before he injured a knee (one

of 12 knee injuries on the team) and was lost for the season. The offensive line had so many injuries that only once during the whole season did Tampa Bay start the same people in two consecutive games. Two veterans (11-year tackle Milt Current and 10-year guard Howard Fest) played with rookies next to them for the most part—Steve Young, Charles Little, and Steve Wilson all started at times. The center was a promising four-year pro, Dan Ryczek, who logged more playing time than he had in three previous seasons with Washington. Tight end Bob Moore, who was picked up from Oakland in the expansion draft, caught 26 passes last year. McKay's son, John Jr., and Morris Owens wound up the season as the two top wide receivers. Owens, the former Dolphin, is a speedster; John Jr. has good hands and instincts. The coach also can choose from little (5-9) Freddie Douglas and rookie Larry Mucker of Arizona State, a ninth-round draft choice.

Defense: McKay has an abundance of linebackers, so he plans to use a three-four defense more this year. His three-man front has some solid talent . . . if it can stay healthy. Council Rudolph played free of injury last year, but Dave Pear and Lee Roy Selmon suffered injuries last year that kept them out of games. Pat Toomay, a seven-year pro who has been with Dallas and Buffalo, is a top reserve, along with rookie Charles Hannah of Alabama. At linebacker, it's not inconceivable that McKay could start three former Trojans. Richard Wood, the two-time All-America from USC, is secure as one inside linebacker. Former USC star Jimmy Gunn will battle four-year pro Jim Peterson at one outside post. Second-round draft pick Dave Lewis of USC could start anywhere, according to McKay. Calvin Peterson finished 1976 at one linebacker position, and McKay will switch Dewey, Lee Roy Selmon's brother, to the position, too. McKay is pleased with the work done by his young, aggressive defensive secondary; the Buccaneers finished a respectable seventh in the AFC pass defense rankings. The starting cornerbacks, Mike Washington and Danny Reece, finished on the injured reserve list with knee problems, but both are back. Mark Cotney, who led the team with three interceptions, and Ken Stone, who had two, man the safety spots. Tampa Bay had a better defense than Seattle, the other ex-

pansion team, even though McKay went into the 1976 allocation draft saying he wanted to get the best offensive players available. The Buccaneers gave up a respectable 160 yards per game passing, but the defensive line and linebackers permitted 5.1 yards per rush. The new defensive system may help matters and reduce that figure.

Special Teams: Davis and Isaac Hagins will return both punts and kickoffs this year. Davis stunned Notre Dame two years in a row with long returns for scores while he was at USC. Dave Green handled punts and placekicking last year, and McKay is looking for improvement. It could come from Derek Smethurst of Durban, South Africa, a soccer player who plays for the Tampa Bay Rowdies.

1977: With Davis and Bell, the Buccaneers could be one of the most improved teams in the NFL.

1976 SCORES		T.B.	Opp.
Sept. 12 at Houston	0	20	
Sept. 19 SAN DIEGO	0	23	
Sept. 26 BUFFALO	9	14	
Oct. 3 at Baltimore	17	42	
Oct. 10 at Cincinnati	0	21	
Oct. 17 SEATTLE	10	13	
Oct. 24 MIAMI	20	23	
Oct. 31 KANSAS CITY	19	28	
Nov. 7 at Denver	13	48	
Nov. 14 at New York Jets	0	34	
Nov. 21 CLEVELAND	7	24	
Nov. 28 at Oakland	16	49	
Dec. 5 at Pittsburgh	0	42	
Dec. 12 NEW ENGLAND	14	31	
Won 0	Lost 14	125	415

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS						
Rushing	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD	
Louis Carter	171	521	3.0	26	1	
Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TD	Int.
Steve Spurrier	311	156	1,628	50.2	7	12
Receiving	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD	
Morris Owens	30	390	13.0	271	6	
Scoring	TD	FG	PAT	Pts.		
Morris Owens	6	0	0	36		
Interceptions	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD	
Mark Cotney	3	25	8.3	25	0	

TOP DRAFT CHOICES		
1. Ricky Bell	RB	USC
2. Dave Lewis	LB	USC
3. Charles Hannah	DE	Alabama
4. Choice to Cincinnati		
5. Choice to Miami		

STARTING LINEUPS			
Offense		Defense	
89 John McKay	WR	78 Council Rudolph	LE
71 Steve Young	LT	76 Dave Pear	MG
72 Howard Fest	LG	63 Lee Roy Selmon	RE
51 Dan Ryczek	C	58 Calvin Peterson	LLB
79 Steve Wilson	RG	53 Larry Ball	MLB
74 Mike Current	RT	54 Richard Wood	MLB
86 Bob Moore	TE	57 Jim Peterson	RLB
85 Morris Owens	WR	40 Mike Washington	LCB
19 Gary Huff	QB	46 Danny Reece	RCB
32 Louis Carter	RB	33 Mark Cotney	LS
43 Ed Williams	RB	28 Ken Stone	RS
4 Dave Green	K	4 Dave Green	P



Washington Redskins
NFC Eastern Division 10-4
Coach: George Allen

Redskins Resilient; Who Would Dare Call Them Fossils?



Jean Fugett stands 6 feet 4, weighs 230.

Overview: When Washington finished 1975 with an 8-6 record and failed to make the playoffs for the first time in George Allen's five years as coach, his critics had a good laugh and said Allen's philosophy of picking with proven players, regardless of age, finally had backfired. Allen had the last laugh in 1976, when Washington used most of the same players—all of them a bit older and wiser—to post a 10-4 record and make the playoffs again.

Offense: Allen feels his interior offensive line this season will be the best he's had in Washington. From left to right they are Tim Stokes, Ron Saul, Len Hauss, Terry Hermeling, and George Starke. Stokes, Hauss, and Starke started every game last year. Saul was injured briefly, but his replacement, Dan Nugent, was a quality player. Both Saul and Nugent will be challenged by Paul Laaveg, the starter at the position from 1972-74 until neck and knee injuries sidelined him for two seasons. Amazing Bill Kilmer will be 38 by the close of his sixteenth training camp; he's Allen's

quarterback. Kilmer suffered a shoulder injury that kept him out of five games last year, yet still passed for 1,252 yards to give him a career total of 18,992. Joe Theismann, who passed for 1,036 yards in 1976, could see a lot of action if Kilmer is slowed. Mike Thomas, now in his third season, ran for 1,101 yards in 1976 and was the team's second-leading pass receiver with 28 catches. Thomas scored nine touchdowns, five on runs and four on pass receptions. Former Jet John Riggins and former Cowboy Calvin Hill were the team's second- and third-ranking rushers. Hill played much of the season with a hamstring injury, but he's healthy this year. Another running back, Larry Brown, caught 17 passes and was used in third down situations. Charley Taylor, the NFL's all-time leading pass receiver, is 34 but he's making what could be a miraculous return after sitting out 1976 with a shoulder injury. Frank Grant's continued development as a receiver with 50 catches gives him one wide receiver spot. Roy Jefferson, the team's third-leading receiver last season, has retired. The Redskins also will look at Larry Jones, who missed 1976 with an ankle injury, and Bryan Fryer, the only rookie to make the team last year. Jean Fugett was a steady tight end, ahead of the superb but aging Jerry Smith, 33. Fugett caught 27 passes, six for touchdowns, last year.

Defense: The strongest aspect of the Washington defense is its secondary. Washington opponents completed just 41.1 percent of their passes in 1976, the lowest figure in the NFL. The Redskins permitted just 11 touchdown passes. Ken Houston and Jake Scott, the safeties, are awesome hitters. Each intercepted four passes. Joe Lavender, obtained from Philadelphia, led the team with eight interceptions from his cornerback spot. The other cornerback is Pat Fischer, a 17-year veteran and perennial Pro Bowler. The average age of the 11 defenders is 32, and the oldest is one of the best: left end Ron McDole, 38. Bill Brundige, 28, at left tackle, is a standout pass rusher, and his backup, Dave Butz, 27, is good against the run. Tackle Diron Talbert, 33, and end Dennis Johnson, 26, make the right side a strong one. Fourth-round draft pick Duncan McColl will challenge the ends, but probably will end up a reserve. At right linebacker, 13-year veteran Chris Hanburger is a mighty force. Left linebacker Brad Dusek appears

set, but middle linebacker Harold McLinton may be challenged by Greg Hartle, a starter last year at St. Louis.

Special Teams: Led by Bob Brunet and Rusty Tillman, Allen's special teams limited opponents to an average of 16.2 yards a kickoff return, second best in NFL history to the 16.0 by the 1940 Chicago Bears. Eddie Brown's NFC-leading 13.5-yard punt return average, and 24.6 on kickoffs, made this another strong point. And continuing the Allen tradition of strong special teams, punter Mike Bragg averaged 38.9 yards; only 44 of his 90 punts were returned. Mark Moseley led the NFC with 97 points, and 22 field goals (in 34 attempts).

1977: Allen has proven that age is relative. With that theory debunked, the Redskins are contenders once again.

1976 SCORES	Wash.	Opp.
Sept. 12 NEW YORK GIANTS	19	17
Sept. 19 SEATTLE	31	7
Sept. 27 at Philadelphia (Monday)	20	17
Oct. 3 at Chicago	7	33
Oct. 10 KANSAS CITY	30	33
Oct. 17 DETROIT	20	7
Oct. 25 ST. LOUIS (Monday)	20	10
Oct. 31 DALLAS	7	20
Nov. 7 at San Francisco	24	21
Nov. 14 at New York Giants	9	12
Nov. 21 at St. Louis	16	10
Nov. 28 PHILADELPHIA	24	0
Dec. 5 at New York Jets	37	16
Dec. 12 at Dallas	27	14
Won 10 Lost 4	291	217

Divisional Playoff	Wash.	Opp.
Dec. 18 at Minnesota	20	35

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS					
Rushing	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Mike Thomas	254	1,101	4.3	28	5
Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TD
Billy Kilmer	206	108	1,252	52.4	12
Receiving	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Frank Grant	50	818	16.4	53 1/2	5
Scoring	TD	FG	PAT		Pts.
Mark Moseley	0	22-34	31-32		97
Interceptions	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Joe Lavender	8	77	9.6	28	0

TOP DRAFT CHOICES		
1. Choice to St. Louis		
2. Choice to Los Angeles through San Diego		
3. Choice to San Diego		
4. Duncan McColl	DE	Stanford
from Miami		
Choice to Kansas City		
5. Choice to Los Angeles		

STARTING LINEUPS			
Offense		Defense	
42 Charley Taylor	WR	79 Ron McDole	LE
76 Tim Stokes	LT	77 Bill Brundige	LT
64 Ron Saul	LG	72 Diron Talbert	RT
56 Len Hauss	C	61 Dennis Johnson	RE
75 Terry Hermeling	RG	59 Brad Dusek	LLB
74 George Starke	RT	53 Harold McLinton	MLB
84 Jean Fugett	TE	55 Chris Hanburger	RLB
46 Frank Grant	WR	37 Pat Fischer	LCB
17 Billy Kilmer	QB	20 Joe Lavender	RCB
44 John Riggins	RB	27 Ken Houston	LS
22 Mike Thomas	RB	13 Jake Scott	RS
3 Mark Moseley	K	4 Mike Bragg	P

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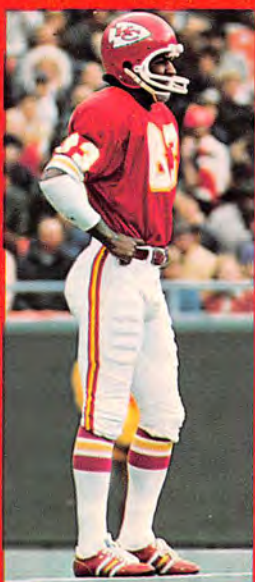

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CHIEFS PANORAMA

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CHIEFS



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AUG 13	*PITTSBURGH STEELERS		
AUG 18	*WASHINGTON REDSKINS		
AUG 27	*LOS ANGELES RAMS		
SEP 5	*ATLANTA FALCONS		
SEP 10	*ST. LOUIS CARDINALS		
SEP 18	NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS		
SEP 25	SAN DIEGO CHARGERS		
OCT 3	OAKLAND RAIDERS		
OCT 9	DENVER BRONCOS		
OCT 16	BALTIMORE COLTS		
OCT 23	SAN DIEGO CHARGERS		
OCT 30	CLEVELAND BROWNS		
NOV 6	GREEN BAY PACKERS		
NOV 13	CHICAGO BEARS		
NOV 20	DENVER BRONCOS		
NOV 27	HOUSTON OILERS		
DEC 4	CINCINNATI BENGALS		
DEC 11	SEATTLE SEAHAWKS		
DEC 18	OAKLAND RAIDERS		

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KNIM —Maryville

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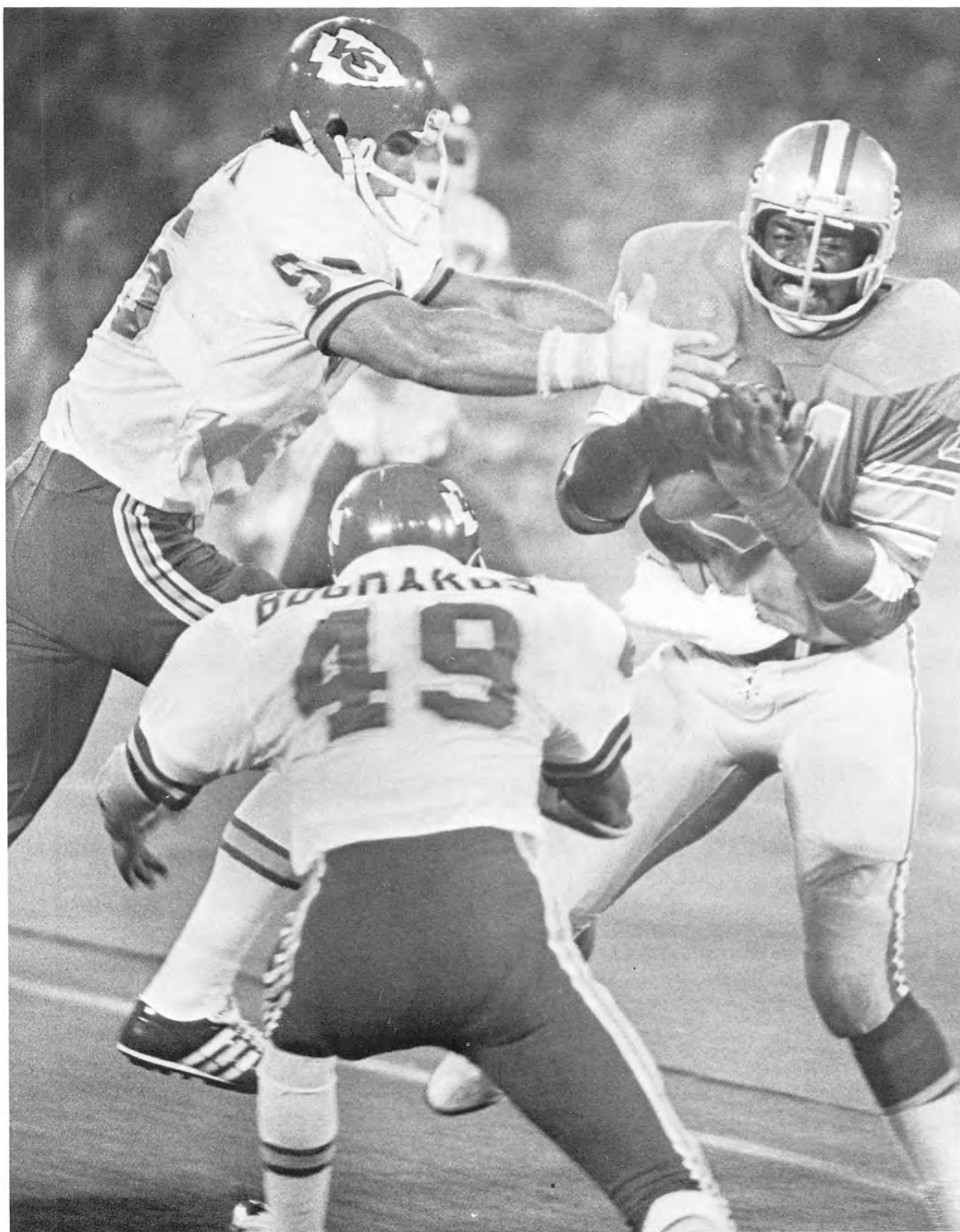
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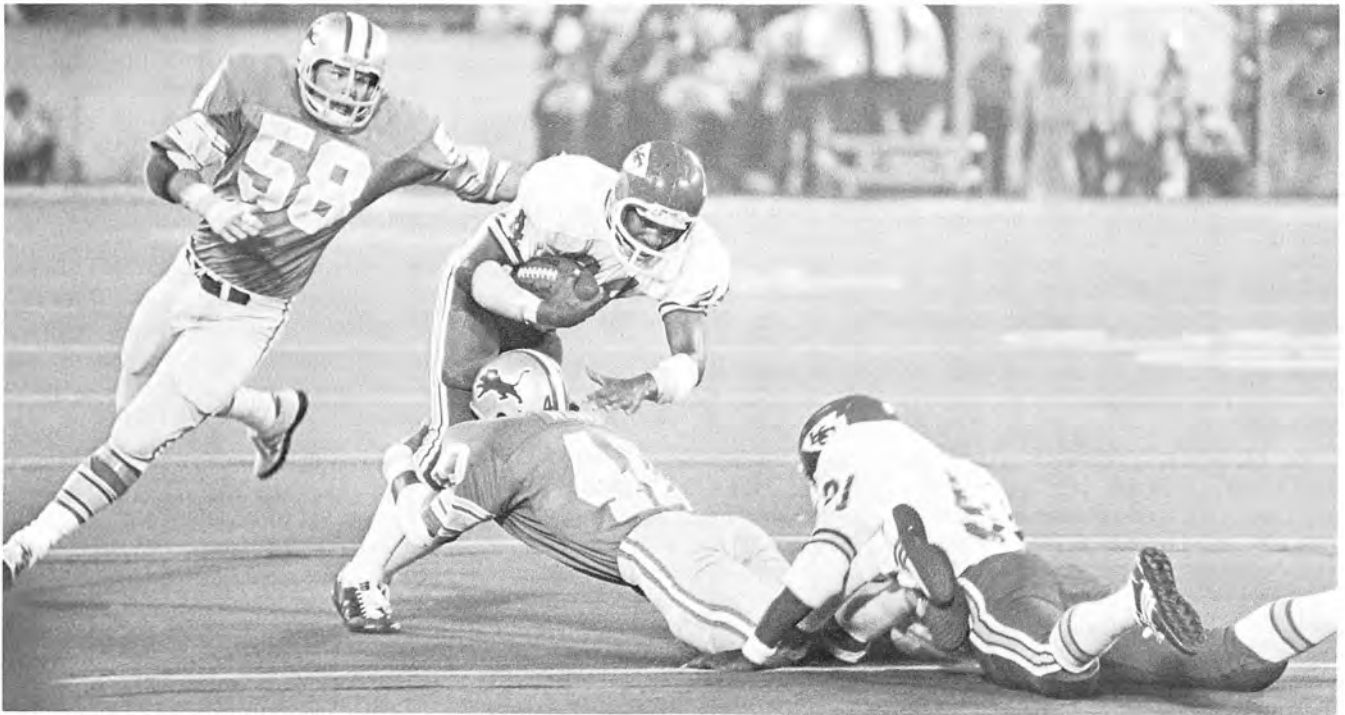
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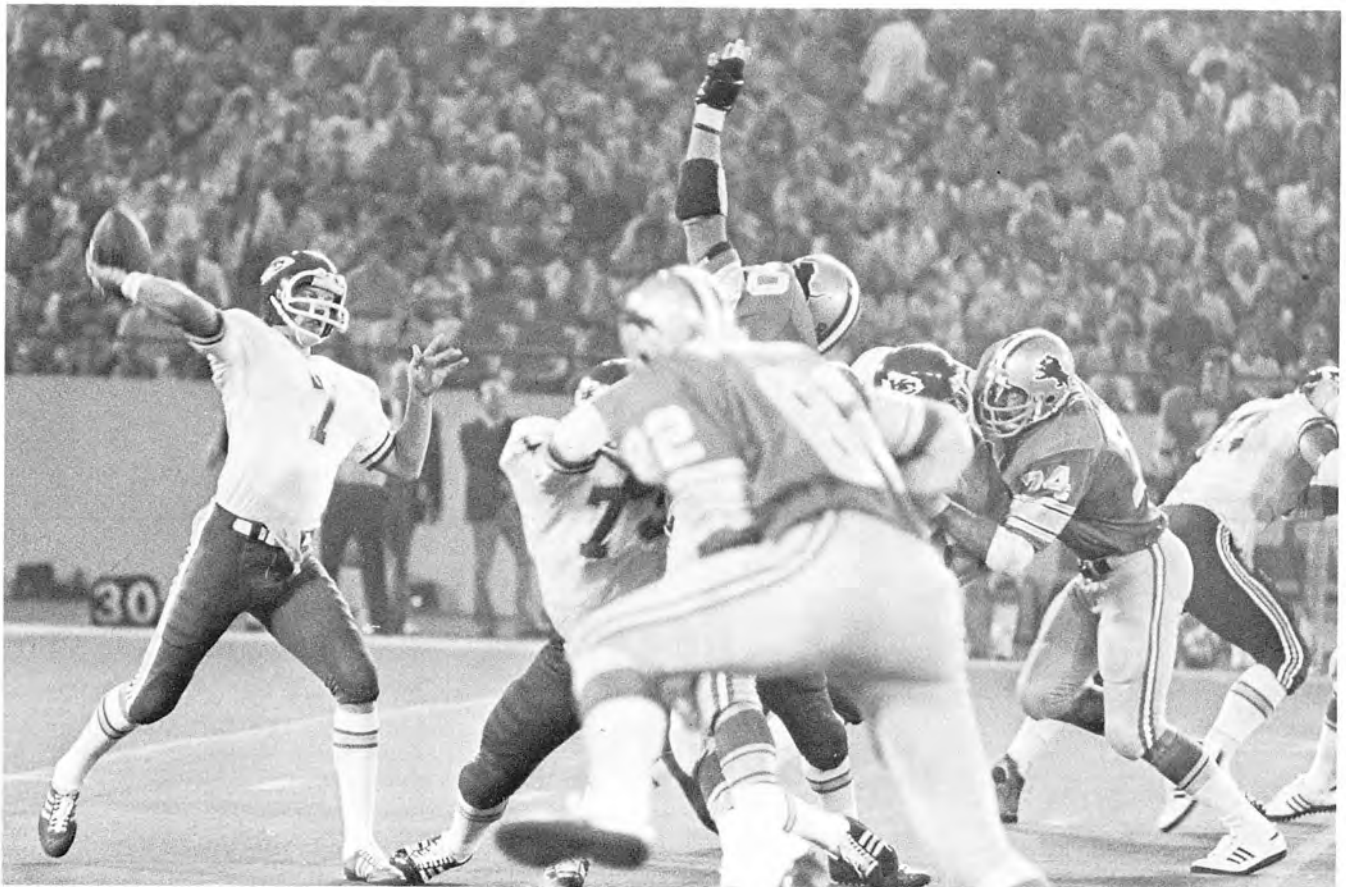
DETROIT 17, KANSAS CITY 0



CLUTCH CATCH—Despite an impending hit from linebacker Dave Rozumek (55), Lions tight end David Hill (81) makes this catch during first-half action at Detroit. Coming up to help out on the play is safety Steve Bognakos (49). The Chiefs defense held the Lions to only a field goal in the first half, but two second-half Detroit touchdowns provided the final margin of victory.



IN HIS TRACKS—The Chiefs employed their first round draft choice, Gary Green (24), on the punt return unit against the Lions. On this play, he's brought down after a short advance by the Lions Charlie West (40) as linebacker Tony Daykin comes from the outside. Rookie Ray Burks (91) is the other Chiefs player.



LINE OF FIRE—The view isn't the clearest for Chiefs quarterback Mike Nott (7) in third-quarter action against the Lions. Free agent tackle Bob Simmons (73) fends off Herb Orvis (80, hand extended) while Rod Walters works on Detroit's Larry Hand (74). Ken Sanders (82) comes in from the left side.

THE NUMBERS GAME

(Continued from page 7)

ies, third rounder Thomas Howard and 12th round selection Ray Burks, also figure prominently.

In the secondary, Tom Bettis has three incumbents, a promising second-year man and a number one draft choice to work with. The holdovers are both safeties, Gary Barbaro and Tim Gray, and old pro Emmitt Thomas. Tim Collier is leading the race at the moment to take over the left corner position vacated by Kerry Reardon. The number one is Gary Green, who's contesting Collier (plus Thomas) and who'll return punts on the special teams.

All of which leaves Bettis in a good frame of mind. "It's true that we have five spots fairly well entrenched and I would say that whoever else makes the grade in the secondary may be the person who has the ability to play both corner and safety."

Three players, Ricky Wesson, Chris Golub and Steve Bograkov, are in the hunt for secondary work. Wesson, a converted wide receiver, is the third backup at left corner.

Golub is Gray's strong safety relief and Bograkov subs for Barbaro at free safety.

"We've had some good battles. I think the defense as a whole is going to be improved because of a renewed attitude and the simplification of some of the systems we use. The alignments are what I'm talking about. We're relatively young in the line, so it became necessary to simplify the system."

"If you look at our Detroit film, we used a basic four-three through-out and it didn't take them long to figure out what we were doing. We had a few breakdowns here and there, but the coverage overall was pretty good."

"I think we're on target for what we intended to do."

Steve Ortmyer, the Chiefs special team coach, has viewed the cut-downs with more than passing interest as he'll be using many of the backups and some starters in special team roles.

"No matter what happens, we're going to be better on teams this year," says Ortmyer. "For one thing, we have three outstanding returners in Gary Green, Larry Brunson and Lawrence Williams. We'll also be better because of some

of our young players up front, guys like Thomas Howard, Jimbo Elrod, Ray Burks and Dave Rozumek.

"And you can't forget two of the best kickers in the game, Jerrel Wilson and Jan Stenerud."

So much of the numbers game is subjective. "You'd love to have two players for every position," says Christiansen, "but it's just not possible with a forty-three-man limit. I continue to wonder how we ever got along with just thirty-three players when I was a player with Detroit."

Pratt makes a similar point. "You never want to let somebody go that's going to help somebody else. In the case of the defensive line, that's a draft item that you've got to go out and get on your own. The same is true for offensive linemen."

"If you take a look at the first two rounds of the 1977 draft, that's a total of fifty-six players. Twenty-five of that fifty-six were offensive or defensive linemen, forty-five per cent. And that's not really an unusual year."

And now, 17 days before the next scheduled cutdown, the numbers game winds down a little. Maybe.

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SUPER BOWL RINGS

SYMBOLS OF CHAMPIONS

Photographs by Rob Meneilly

The Vince Lombardi trophy is the most coveted symbol of NFL supremacy, but the Super Bowl rings that are worn by the members of the champion clubs are equally revered, although they are not as well known to the public.

The rings are unique because each Super Bowl champion is allowed to design its own, subject to guidelines—including costs—set by the league constitution.

Only a limited number of rings are produced—approximately 75 per club—and they are generally awarded only to the players, coaches, staff aides, and members of the front office of the winning team. The rings are jealously guarded mementos of pro football's highest achievement.

Following their victory in Super Bowl XI, the Oakland Raiders undertook what was perhaps the most intense search yet for the design of a championship ring. Four companies submitted designs that were considered by managing general partner Al Davis, head coach John Madden, and executive assistant Al LoCasale. Before the designs were submitted, Davis made a personal tour of some of the Bay area's finest jewelry stores, studying rings for the particular characteristics that showed craftsmanship. Since this was his club's first Super Bowl ring, he was



Game XI Oakland Raiders
Lennox Awards

Baron Wolman

determined that it be superlative in design and representative of the great honor it symbolized.

After evaluating the designs submitted by each of the competing companies, the Raiders authorized Lenox Awards, Inc., a division of the Lenox Company, producers of fine china, to produce their ring. Designer Elliott Inberg's creation incorporated all the elements the committee felt were appropriate. The design is extremely complex. The ring is manufactured of 14k white gold, set with 27 diamonds in and around a black spinel onyx center, and weighs an average of 31 pennyweight.

On one shank, there are designs that commemorate the Raiders' winning of

the AFC title, followed by Super Bowl XI. On the other shank, the individual is commemorated, displaying the name and number of the player, his area (offense, defense, staff), his position, and the Raiders' emblem.

Since Super Bowl IV, all clubs have had the same amount of money to spend. It is interesting to see what each has done to realize the greatest value for the dollars available.

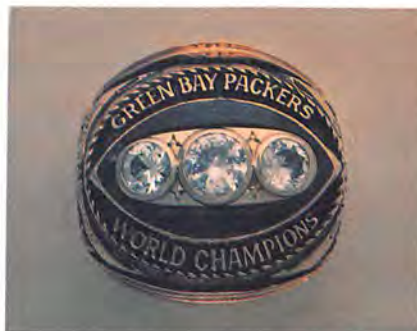
The rings all feature diamonds of one size or another, and a variety of synthetic and natural stones, chosen to complement the primary colors of a particular team. The ring metal is solid gold, usually 10 karat because it is harder and less resistant to wear, but some of the rings also are 14 karat. The lightest ring weighs 21 pennyweight and the heaviest is 32 pennyweight. The largest of the rings—"a real knuckle buster," says Ken Westerland of Josten's—is the one Lombardi ordered after Super Bowl II.

Marv Fleming owns the most Super Bowl rings, four. A tight end at Green Bay during their championship era, he later was traded to Miami just as the Dolphins began their ascent as the AFC's dominant team. Fleming owns Super Bowl rings from having been on the winning team in Super Bowls I, II, VII, and VIII.



Game I Green Bay Packers
Josten's

Vince Lombardi and his two captains, Bob Skoronski and Willie Davis, worked with Ken Westerland to design the Super Bowl I ring. The ring is 10k gold and features a one-half karat diamond inset in a hemispheric globe. In 1967, gold cost about \$32 an ounce. Today it is about \$125 an ounce. On one side of the shank, Westerland developed a detail from the Lombardi family crest and combined it in pattern with emblems of the AFL and NFL. The opposite shank features scores of the 1966 NFL championship—and Super Bowl I. The ring weighs 28 pennyweight.



Game II Green Bay Packers
Josten's

With the knowledge that Super Bowl II culminated his coaching career in Green Bay, Lombardi spared no effort in having a ring designed that exemplified his years of glory there. Again, Josten's was commissioned to design the ring. The ring is 10k gold and features one full karat diamond braced by two one-half karat diamonds set in a tourmaline. The cost, in 1968, was \$1,900 each. Recently, the ring has almost doubled in value and was appraised at \$3,500. The largest of all Super Bowl rings in size, it weighs 30 pennyweight.



Game III New York Jets
Balfour

Joe Namath had guaranteed it, so Joe was given the job of designing the Jets' Super Bowl III ring with Balfour's Norman Shorrock. The ring is 14k yellow gold, featuring a 75-point diamond set in a football-shaped emerald spinel. Six smaller diamonds of approximately 20 points each surround the larger stone. The ring weighs 25 pennyweight and cost over \$2,000 each in 1969. The Jets, first Super Bowl champions, from the American Football League, wanted a ring that eclipsed those of the already legendary Packers.



Game IV Kansas City Chiefs
Josten's

Following Kansas City's surprising 23-7 victory over Minnesota, Chiefs coach Hank Stram and general manager Jack Steadman commissioned Josten's to design a ring that epitomized the Super Bowl victory and acknowledged the club's tenth anniversary. The ring is 10k gold, featuring a full karat diamond surrounded by 10 three-point diamonds set in a white gold plate, shaped like a football. The plate is set in a glowing synthetic ruby. The Kansas City ring weighs 30 pennyweight.



Game V Baltimore
Josten's

Baltimore general manager Don Klosterman supervised the design of his club's Super Bowl ring, working closely with Westerland. A white gold horseshoe surrounds a full karat diamond, which is set in an unusually large fire-blue spinel, measuring 16 mm. wide by 14 mm. high. Within the horseshoe are seven sapphires, vapor-plated on the back to make them more luminous. The ring, which is made of 10k gold, is unique because of the complicated double bezel. It weighs 32 pennyweight.



Game VI Dallas Cowboys
Balfour

Shorrock created a stunning ring to commemorate the Cowboys' 24-3 Super Bowl victory over the Miami Dolphins. The ring features a large synthetic star-shaped sapphire in which is centered an 80-point diamond. In between the points of the star are 15 other diamonds—three 10-point, two 5-point, and 10 one-half-point—creating a setting with a total of 1 1/3 karats. The ring is 14k white gold with deep-cut detailing. The lightest of all existing Super Bowl rings, it weighs 21 pennyweight.



Game VII Miami Dolphins
Josten's

Managing general partner Joe Robbie and coach Don Shula wanted a special ring to commemorate Miami's 17-0 season in 1972, capped by the Super Bowl victory over Washington. The ring is 10k yellow gold, with a complicated double bezel featuring raised lettering. A full karat diamond is centered in an aquamarine stone and surrounded by 16 3-point diamonds. On one shank is the Vince Lombardi trophy with "17-0" beneath it. The opposite side shows Shula's motto, "The Winning Edge." The ring weighs 22 pennyweight.



Game VIII Miami Dolphins
Josten's

After the Dolphins' second consecutive Super Bowl victory, Joe Robbie asked Josten's to create a similar but simpler ring. Westerland selected two 60-point diamonds, representative of the two seasons, and set them in an elliptical white gold mount, which was set in a large aquamarine stone. The ring, which is 10k yellow gold, has a replica of the Dolphins' emblem on one shank. The opposite side features the Vince Lombardi trophy and the inscription "Back to Back." It weighs 32 pennyweight.



Game IX Pittsburgh Steelers
Josten's

After the Pittsburgh Steelers upset the Minnesota Vikings to win the club's first NFL championship in its 42-year history, club president Dan Rooney worked with Josten's designer Ken Westerland on the ring. Rooney selected a cushion antique shape which involved a complicated inverted double bezel to hold the stones. A one karat diamond was set in a genuine onyx. All wording and emblems on the shanks of the ring, which is 10k white gold, are incised. It weighs 32 pennyweight.



Game X Pittsburgh Steelers
Balfour

For the Steelers' second Super Bowl ring, Rooney worked with Shorrock to create what is perhaps the most unusual of all the Super Bowl rings to date. The ring is 14k yellow gold and features a complex cushion antique shape with dramatically raised wording. Two 50-point diamonds were set in paladium, a precious alloy of the platinum family. The paladium was sculpted to display the Vince Lombardi trophy. The shanks are incised in

the same manner as the previous year. The ring weighs 23 pennyweight. (Most men's high school and college rings are 12 to 15 pennyweight.)

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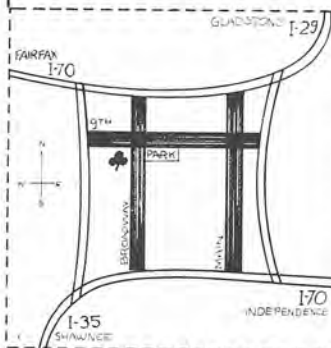


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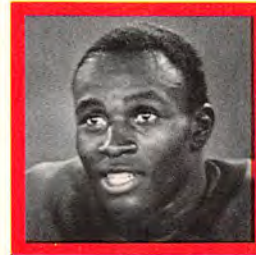
Mike Garrett
1966



Jan Stenerud
1967



Robert Holmes
1968



Jim Marsalis
1969



Jack Rudnay
1970



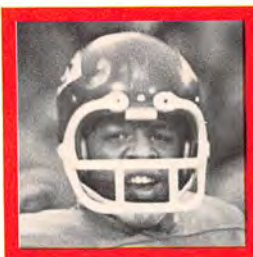
Elmo Wright
1971



Larry Marshall
1972



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1976

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1969



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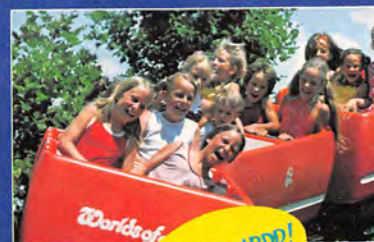
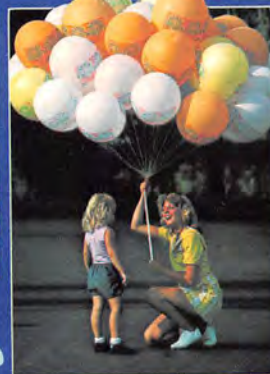
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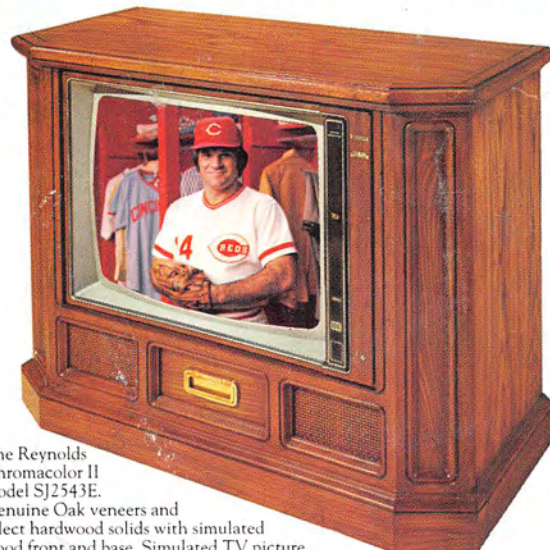
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